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HISTORY
OF
Montcalm County
MICHIGAN

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

BY
JOHN W. DASEF

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

VOLUME I

ILLUSTRATED

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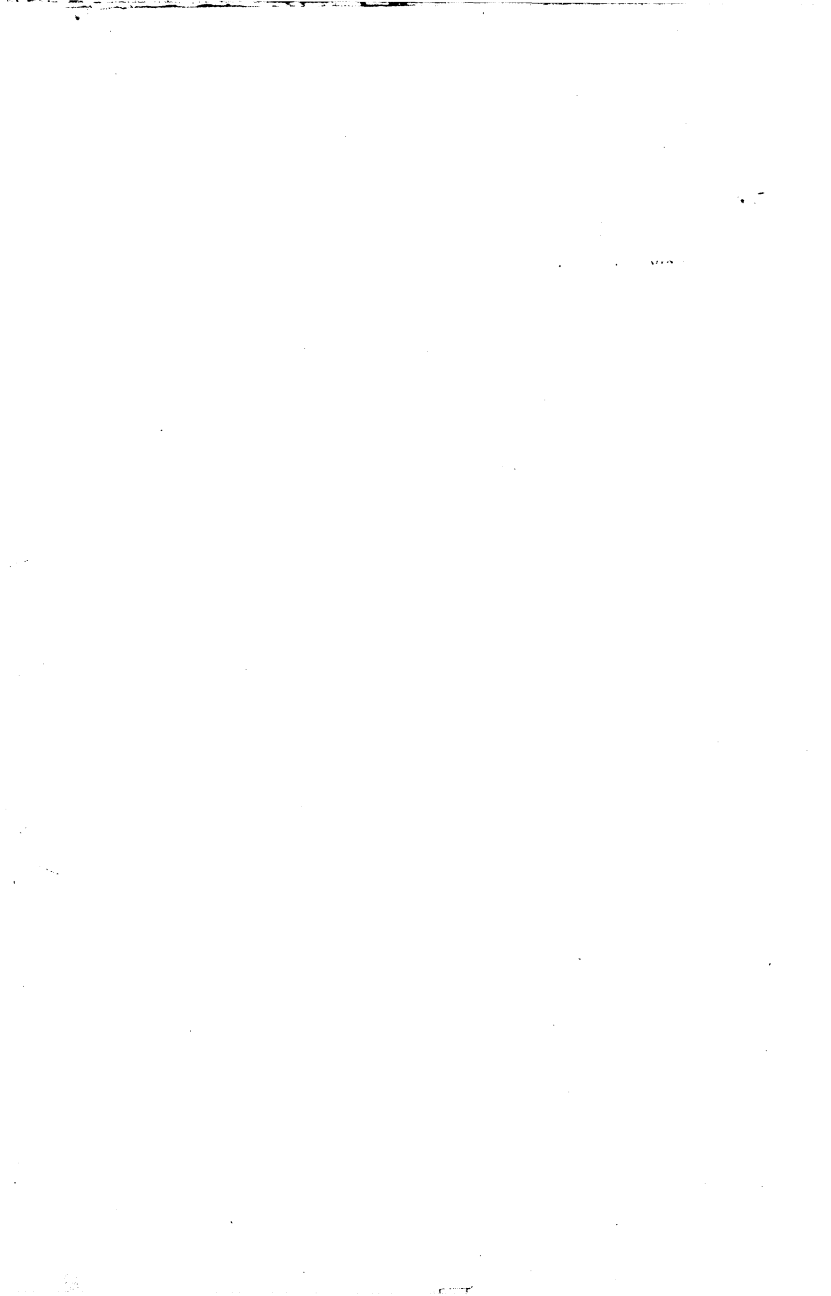


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LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

DEDICATION

To the dear, departed ones, whose busy hands changed the giant forests into fertile fields; whose love of home established the hearthstones, the tender ties of which yet bind together the heartstrings of the native born; whose patriotism gave the best of their lives and substance for the defense of their country; whose graves make sacred the soil their feet so often trod.



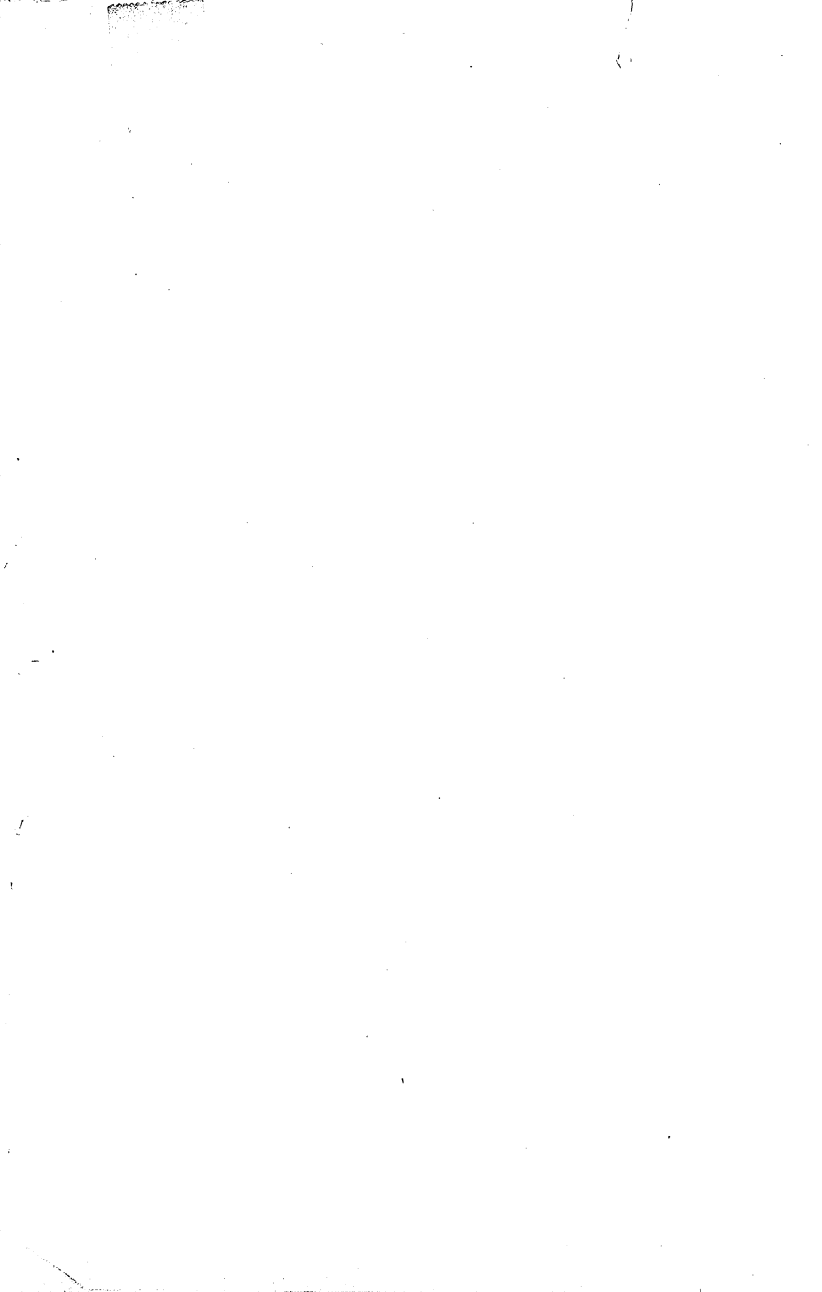
PREFACE

All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from **past** experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from **past** exertion and sacrifice. The deeds and motives of the men who have **gone** before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later **communities** and states. The development of a new country was at once a task **and** a privilege. It required great courage, sacrifice and privation. Compare the present conditions of the people of Montcalm county, Michigan, with what they were seven decades ago. From a trackless wilderness and virgin land, it has come to be a center of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, systems of railways, grand educational institutions, splendid industries and immense agricultural and mineral productions. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the aspirations and efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the foundation upon which has been reared the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, political and industrial progress of the community from its first inception is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past is the motive for the present publication. A specially valuable and interesting department is that one devoted to the sketches of representative citizens of the county whose records deserve preservation because of their worth, effort and accomplishment. The publishers desire to extend their thanks to the gentlemen who have so faithfully labored to this end. Thanks are also due to the citizens of Montcalm county for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking, and for their many services rendered in the gaining of necessary information.

In placing the "History of Montcalm County, Michigan," before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out the plan as outlined in the prospectus. Every biographical sketch in the work has been submitted to the party interested, for correction, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Confident that our effort to please will fully meet the approbation of the public, we are,

Respectfully,

THE PUBLISHERS.



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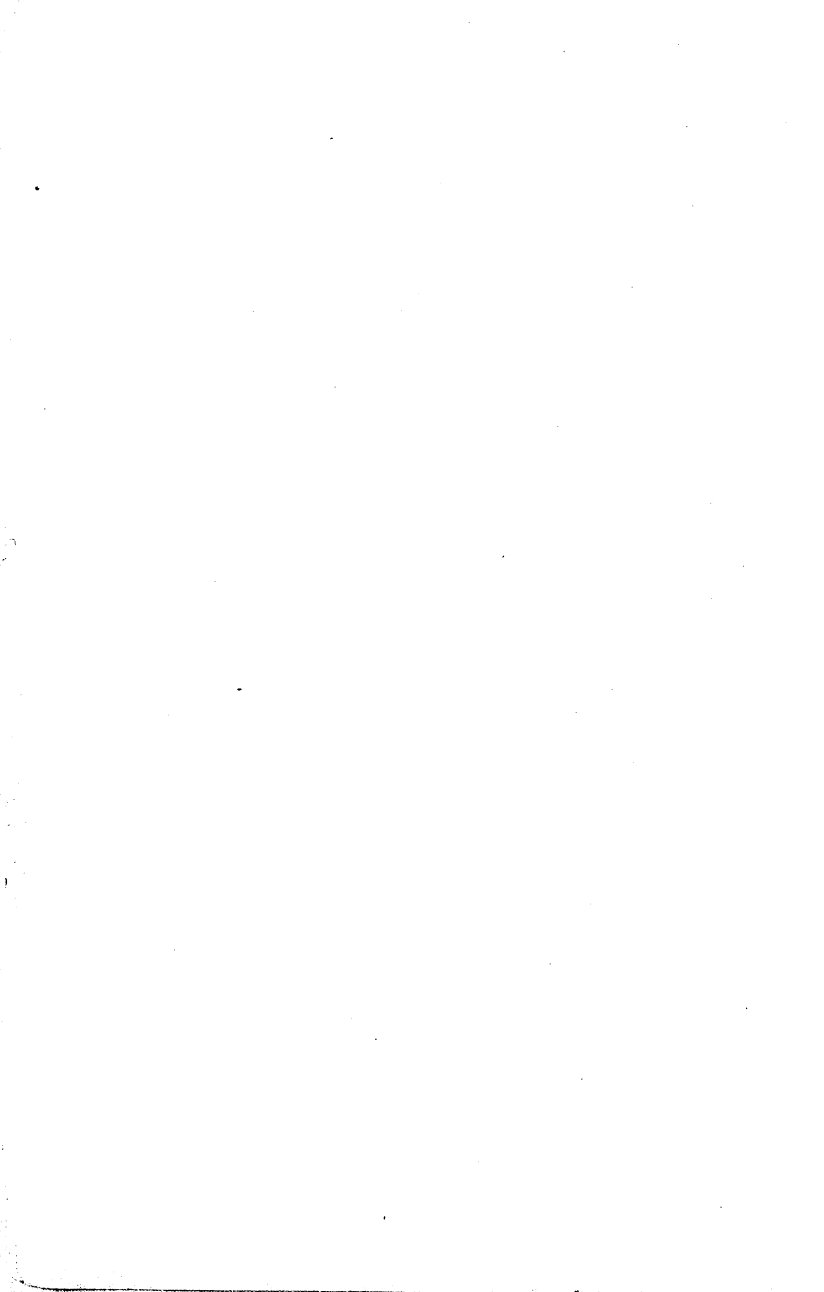
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HISTORICAL

CHAPTER I.

GEOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The surface of Montcalm county, which is extremely varied, is covered by many small streams and lakes. Originally, it was covered by dense forests of pine, with some hardwood timber interspersed here and there, but these monarchs of the forests have almost altogether disappeared and in their place are hundreds of fertile farms that produce the good things of the earth. The farmer has taken the place of the lumberman and the plow that of the axe.

From Bloomer township, which stands about one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the Great Lakes, the surface rises to the height of three hundred and fifty feet above the same level in Home, Belvidere, Cato and Winfield townships. The city of Greenville has an altitude of two hundred and fifty feet above Lake Michigan, which is somewhat less perhaps than the general level of the county.

The principal streams of the county are Flat river, Little Muskegon and Pine rivers, Tamarack and Fish creeks. The first rises in Six Lakes and other lakelets and streams in the northern part of the county and in the southern part of Mecosta county, and, flowing through Belvidere, Douglass, Pine, Montcalm and Eureka townships, affords considerable mill power which at different times has been utilized to some extent. The Little Muskegon and Tamarack creek, its tributary, flow through Cato, Winfield and Reynolds townships. Pine river, in Richland, and Fish creek, in Day, Evergreen, Crystal and Bloomer townships, flow to the southeast while passing through the county and finally mingle their waters, the former with those of the Saginaw river and Lake Huron, the latter with the Maple and Grand rivers and Lake Michigan.

The lakes of Montcalm are numerous, there being more than one hun-

dred and sixty in number. The principal ones are Crystal and Duck lakes in Crystal township; Rock and Bass lakes in Richland; Tamarack lake in Cato; Town-Line lake between Cato and Belvidere; and White Fish lake in Pierson.

FIRST CORRECTION LINE.

Montcalm county possesses one peculiarity in the first correction line. This line, in its course across the lower peninsula, parallel to and north sixty miles from the base line, passes between townships 10 and 11 north, or through the center of Montcalm county, from east to west. The necessity of this and of other correction lines will be perceived when it is remembered that if north and south lines are true meridians they will not be parallel, but will approach one another or converge toward the north. In fact, if continued sufficiently far, they would meet in one point at the North Pole. The convergence in a single township is small, though quite perceptible, the actual excess in length of its south over its north line being, in Michigan, about three rods. The townships north of the base line, therefore, become narrower than the six miles width with which they commence, by that amount, and those south of it become as much wider than six miles. If continued too great a distance this narrowing or widening would cause serious inconvenience, and to obviate this effect of the curvature of the earth's surface it is found necessary to establish, at stated intervals, standard parallels commonly called correction lines. These are usually sixty miles apart, though in some localities it has been found convenient to establish them nearer together. Michigan has five correction lines, all north of the base line; the first, as before mentioned being the one which passes through Montcalm county. On these parallels, which form new base lines, fresh measurements are made from the principal meridian, and the corners of new townships are fixed six miles apart as on the original base line. This method of procedure not only takes up the error due to convergence of meridians but checks and arrests errors which from want of precision or carelessness, are likely to occur in the surveys already made.

The effects of running the first correction lines will be noticed by referring to any outline map of Montcalm county. Its position is indicated by the offset which commences there in the north and south lines. Thus the east lines of Ferris and Richland townships are carried nearly half a mile to the westward of the line which forms the eastern boundary of Bloomer and Crystal townships, and these offsets continue on the same line to Lake Michigan.

ROCK FORMATIONS.

In the southern peninsula of Michigan the rock formations present less variety of features than in the northern peninsula, and are much less open to view, because of the greater thickness of the glacial deposits. None of the rock formations in the southern peninsula have been subjected to such upheaval and folding as characterize the formations in the western part of the northern peninsula. They all lie in nearly horizontal position with a gentle dip toward the center of the peninsula. The beds of shale, sandstone and limestone which outcrop in the eastern part of the northern peninsula, also dip toward the center of the southern peninsula, and pass beneath the beds which form the surface of that peninsula.

The rock formations of the southern peninsula range in age from the upper part of the Silurian, through the Devonian, to the lower part of the Carboniferous, and consist of a series of limestone, shale and sandstone beds with which are associated deposits of coal, gypsum and salt, each in its own particular horizons. The arrangement of the several formations has been likened to the piling up of plates or saucers in a series of diminishing size, and diminishing amount of dishing from bottom to top. The uppermost and youngest formation, though resting on those which precede it in age, does not stand above some of the outlying parts.

The rock formations in Montcalm county belong to those of the Carboniferous age and to the particular division known as the Saginaw formation. The surface formations in Montcalm county include the moraines, both landlaid and waterlaid, boulder-clay plains, outwash plains and sandy drift. There is a fringe, slightly less than six miles wide, beginning in the southeastern corner of the county and gradually tapering off to the extreme northeastern corner, of boulder-clay plains or till plains which were formed under the ice sheet. The soil ranges from clayey to sandy loam and from first-rate to good second-rate quality. North of Carson City, however, this fringe is broken by a strip of outwash plains where the sand or gravel was spread out by water escaping from the ice sheet. Here the soil is usually light and requires intelligent cultivation. There is also a narrow strip of outwash plains between the two moraines, one west of the boulder-clay plains already referred to, and the other just east of Stanton and extending north and south throughout the entire length of the county. Still a third outwash plain is bounded roughly on the east by the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad and extends west to the county line.

TERMINAL MORAINES.

Two of the principal moraines of Montcalm county have already been referred to. The Montcalm county moraines, which are landlaid altogether, consist of rolling or gently undulating glacial deposits formed at the border of the ice sheet. The soil is quite variable within a short space and ranges from very stony material to heavy clay with a few stones and is usually fair to very good farm land. There is one moraine of this character which is bounded roughly by a line drawn from Greenville to Gowen and tapering almost to a point by straight lines some three or four miles north of the Montcalm county correction line. Another moraine lies in the northern part of Pine and the southern part of Cato townships.

A strip running through Stanton, north and south, four or five miles wide at the southern line of the county and tapering to the width of the city of Stanton, then gradually broadening out to the northwest to the Pere Marquette railroad, consists of bowlder-clay plains, already described.

Besides all these formations, there are several areas west and northwest of Stanton, consisting of sandy drift, or sandy deposits not definitely formed as outwash from the ice border, and in part deposited under the ice. The soil of these areas is variable but usually is second rate. Areas of this character may be found in the western part of Douglass township, in Pine township, in the southern part of Cato and in Maple Valley township.

HOW THE GLACIAL DRIFTS WERE FORMED.

The glacial drift which covers so deeply much of the rock surface of the southern peninsula consists of a more or less commingled mass of boulders and small stones in a sandy or clayey matrix, though it differs greatly in constitution and texture from place to place. It was brought in largely, if not wholly, by an ice sheet or continental glacier which moved southwestward from the highlands of Canada across the several Great Lakes basins, carrying in it the earthy and stony material gathered from the loose surface material of the districts over which it was moving. The Canadian highlands were thus extensively denuded of soil and subsoil, while the district south of the Great Lakes was correspondingly enriched by the glacial action. The average thickness of the drift in the southern peninsula is about three hundred feet. There are places near the border of Lake Michigan where the drift is known to exceed six hundred feet.

Places in the high interior of the north part of the peninsula may have over one thousand feet.

There is evidence that the drift of this peninsula is not the product of a single ice invasion, but instead, of two or more invasions, between which were long periods of warm climate such as prevails today. Between the deposits of glacial material are soils and peat beds and other indications of the presence of vegetation such as would thrive under a genial climate.

Among the most prominent of the topographic features are the belts of rolling or hummocky surfaced drift called moraines, which have already been discussed. These belts have been followed in some cases for scores and even hundreds of miles in their broad sweep around the basins of the Great Lakes, and across other districts. They were formed at places where the edge of the ice held a nearly constant position for a long period, and, by a continual advance to this line, brought in the material which furnished the irregular surfaced moraines. The uneven surface of the moraines is probably due largely to differences in the dirtiness of the ice. The dirtiest parts upon melting would furnish the material for the hummocks, while the cleanest parts would fall short of building up the surface and leave corresponding depressions. It is probable also that some inequality of surface is due to disturbances of material by the ice movement.

With the exception of a small area in the southwestern part of Montcalm county, where the altitude is from six hundred to eight hundred feet, the altitude of the county varies from eight hundred to one thousand feet above sea level.

TEMPERATURES MODIFIED BY THE LAKES.

The climate of the lower peninsula of Michigan is insular to a marked degree on account of the Great Lakes. Large bodies of water tend to equalize the nearby land temperatures, and this is especially true of the lower peninsula, where the effect of the great cold waves sweeping down from the northwest is modified by the warmer water of the Great Lakes, the movement of these anti-cyclones, or cold waves, is often deflected by the great bodies of water.

The effect of the Great Lakes, particularly that of Lake Michigan, in modifying the temperature effect of cold anti-cyclones and warm cyclonic storms, makes for lower Michigan a more equable and less extreme climate than obtains in the states of similar latitude on the other side of Lake Michigan. This influence is very marked in the immediate vicinity of Lake

Michigan, although apparent in all parts of the lower peninsula. In Wisconsin winter temperatures have frequently continued from ten to twenty degrees lower during periods of extreme cold weather than in lower Michigan, owing to the warming influence of the lake which intervenes between the two. In spring the influence of Lake Michigan particularly, and all of the Great Lakes in general, is of untold value in modifying the eastward sweep of early hot waves and late cold waves. In summer the refreshing southwest to west winds are making the entire shore bordering on Lake Michigan one continuous summer resort.

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE.

The January mean temperature for a period from 1886 to 1911, in Montcalm county, varies from 22 to 23 degrees, while the July mean temperature varies from 69 to 72 degrees. The mean annual temperature of lower Michigan as a whole is about 46 degrees, ranging from 49 degrees in the extreme southwestern part to 42 degrees in the extreme northeasterly portion. The average minimum or day temperature ranges from about 82 degrees in summer to 28 degrees in winter, while the average minimum or night temperature in summer is approximately 57 degrees and 12 degrees in winter. The highest known temperature in Montcalm county from 1886 to 1911, was 100 degrees and the lowest known temperature during this period was 26 degrees below zero.

Michigan is seldom visited by tornadoes. The most destructive storms of this character occurred on May 25, 1896, in Oakland county and at Omer, Arenac county, on May 24, 1897. In recent years the most destructive tornado occurred at Owosso on November 11, 1911, and at the very unusual hour of about eleven p. m.

Long heated spells in summer or abnormally protracted cold ones in winter are very unusual. Historical ones occurred in the summer of 1911 and the winter of 1899. The continued high temperatures prevailing during the latter part of June, in 1911, were phenomenal and had never before been equalled as far as length of time is concerned. On the other hand, the phenomenal cold weather which occurred during February, 1899, marked the longest period of low temperature known. A strong factor in determining the continued cold of February, 1899, was the freezing over, or rather the covering with fields of rubble ice, of Lake Michigan, thus forming a bridge instead of a barrier for the advance of the northwestern cold wave that crossed the northern states that month.

THE GROWING SEASON.

As a rule, destructive frosts do not occur after May 15 in the spring, nor earlier than September 30 in the fall. Over a large part of the southern peninsula killing frosts do not occur until October 1. This gives an average of one hundred and forty-five days, or nearly five months, when, under average conditions, there will be no destructive frosts. Except for a small part of the extreme western part of Montcalm county and a tip in the extreme northeastern part, the average date of the last killing frost in the spring is May 5. The average date of the first killing frost in the fall varies from October 5, in the extreme southwestern part of Montcalm county, to September 30, in the extreme northeastern part. The average length of the crop-growing season in Montcalm county varies from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and sixty days.

The prevailing winds for the greater part of the year are from the west and the average hourly velocity ranges from twelve and one-half miles per hour in March and April to a minimum of about nine miles per hour in August and September. The wind is mostly from the west and southwest during the first three months of the year and from June to December; while the prevailing direction is mostly southwesterly during the months of April and May, quite a large period, but less than a majority of the time, the surface movement of the air is from the east and northeast. Maximum velocities of short duration ranging from twenty-five to forty miles an hour occur during most months of the year and velocities from forty to sixty miles an hour are not uncommon but rather infrequent. Extreme velocities of sixty miles an hour and over are of comparatively rare occurrence; at Grand Rapids the wind velocity has exceeded sixty miles but twice in the last nine years.

Winds are more variable during the cooler half of the year. At all seasons the southerly winds are usually warm and moist, the northerly winds cold and dry. The easterly winds usually herald unsettled weather, the westerly winds fair and settled conditions. Owing to the fact that the prevailing summer winds are southwesterly, the shore of Lake Michigan from the southern limits of the state northward is rapidly becoming one continuous summer resort, where much relief can be found during the hot months; the water breezes are refreshing, especially at night, and insure greater comfort than can be obtained at any point inland.

RAINFALL OF MONTCALM COUNTY.

Agriculture, as adapted to most any part of the United States, requires from twenty to twenty-four inches of annual precipitation properly distributed as a minimum amount to grow successful crops without irrigation. A well distributed annual amount varying from twenty-six to thirty inches is ample for successful agriculture, while amounts exceeding thirty inches, if well distributed, are not injurious to the class of crops grown in Michigan, unless more than forty inches a year.

The average annual precipitation, which includes melted snow, hail, sleet and rain, is greatest in the extreme southern part of the state and least in the northern part. The general average for the entire peninsula is approximately thirty inches. The average annual precipitation for Montcalm county, based on observations made from 1886 to 1911, is from thirty to thirty-five inches. The average monthly precipitation in Montcalm county in no month is less than two inches and varies from two inches in January and February to nearly three and one-half inches in May and June. It is slightly less than three inches for July, about two and one-half inches for August, two and three-fourths inches for September, two and one-half inches for October, two and three-fourths inches for November and two and one-third inches for December. Since the long and intense general drought of 1894-95, there has been no serious droughts in the state. Previous to 1894 moderately severe droughts had occurred in Michigan in 1881 and 1887.

The sunshine will average somewhat over fifty per cent. of the possible amount, the percentage being much higher during the period extending from May to the middle of October, than during the winter months. During December, January and February it sometimes falls as low as twenty per cent. of the possible amount, while during June, July, August and September it exceeds sixty and sometimes seventy per cent. of the possible amount. As a rule, July is the sunniest month and December the cloudiest.

COAL DEPOSITS.

Observations of the state geologist show that coal measures underlie the surface deposits in Montcalm county. No wells penetrate formations deeper than the coal measures in the group of counties southwest and west of Saginaw bay, including Montcalm county, and there is therefore no direct knowledge of the character and thickness of the deeper lying forma-

tions. Records of deep wells at Grand Rapids, Mt. Pleasant, Alma, St. Johns, Delta and Charlotte, however, indicate the general geologic conditions obtaining in Montcalm county.

It is very probable that gypsum and coal deposits exist in Montcalm county. Marl or bog lime is known to exist in a number of places, but under present conditions marl deposits do not have any considerable economic value. It is quite possible that in the near future marl deposits will be developed for agricultural purposes.

TYPES OF SOIL.

The classifications of soil for Montcalm county, herewith presented, merely sets forth the general classes of glacial deposits such as are evident to anyone without the pains necessary for a close analysis. Observations have seemed sufficiently complete, however, to form a basis for the estimates for the relative amounts of sandy and gravelly land given in the tables. The gravelly loam appears in river terraces and has been reworked by streams. The sand is found in both glacial areas and alluvial tracts. The sandy loam is in some cases glacial and in other cases alluvial, but in Michigan it is ordinarily glacial and more or less pebbly. The fine sandy and silty loam is widely represented in the ordinary till plain, the silty phase being classed as clayey till.

The following table shows in detail the surface formations in Montcalm county:

Sections.	Area	Swamp and lake sections.	Clayey till sections.	Sandy till sections.	Sandy loam sections.	Gravelly loam sections.
T. 12, R. 5 W-----	36	3	3	22	8	--
T. 12, R. 6 W-----	36	3	9	21	3	--
T. 12, R. 7 W-----	36	6	13	17	--	--
T. 12, R. 8 W-----	36	3	8	21	4	--
T. 12, R. 9 W-----	36	1	8	18	9	--
T. 12, R. 10 W-----	36	--	1	1	32	2
T. 11, R. 10 W-----	36	4	15	7	6	4
T. 11, R. 9 W-----	36	--	12	16	8	--
T. 11, R. 8 W-----	36	--	4	20	--	12
T. 11, R. 7 W-----	36	2	4	22	--	8
T. 11, R. 6 W-----	36	--	18	15	3	--
T. 11, R. 5 W-----	36	1	13	18	4	--

Sections.	Area sections.	Swamp and lake sections.	Clayey till sections.	Sandy till sections.	Sandy sections.	Gravelly loam sections.
T. 10, R. 5 W-----	36	4	12	14	6	--
T. 10, R. 6 W-----	36	2	8	20	6	--
T. 10, R. 7 W-----	36	2	18	14	2	--
T. 10, R. 8 W-----	36	3	3	20	--	10
T. 9 R. 8 W-----	36	2	6	22	6	--
T. 9, R. 7 W-----	36	2	10	20	4	--
T. 9, R. 6 W-----	36	2	24	4	6	--
T. 9, R. 5 W-----	36	2	28	--	6	--
Total -----	720	42	217	312	113	36

The total area of Montcalm county, including lakes and embracing 720 sections, is 710 square miles, while the whole number of farms in the county is 4,678. The average value of the land per acre, which is devoted to agriculture, is \$26.44. Altogether, there are 613.9 square miles in farms, or 84.8 per cent. The total farm land improved amounts to 67.8 per cent., while the per cent. of all land improved amounts to 57.5 per cent. The principal crops of Montcalm county, as given by the state geologist, are hay, potatoes, corn, oats, rye, wheat and beans, named in the order of their importance. These figures, however, are taken from the 1910 census and are not dependable at this time. The undeveloped land in Montcalm county is chiefly in sandy plains, the more productive land being under profitable cultivation.

CHAPTER II.

ORGANIZATION OF MONTCALM COUNTY.

The people of Michigan adopted their first Constitution in 1835, preparatory to the admission of the territory into the Union as a state, but this first Constitution was rejected by Congress and in December, 1836, a second Constitution was adopted and this was accepted. The territory of Michigan was formally admitted to the Union by act of January 26, 1837, with the capital at Detroit and the boundaries reduced to approximately the present limits of the state. A small strip of land, covering about six hundred square miles, and embracing the present city of Toledo, Ohio, was claimed by both Michigan and Ohio. By the terms of a compromise which subsequently settled the dispute, Michigan received the upper peninsula in exchange for the territory in dispute. In 1847 the seat of the state government was moved to Lansing, then a dense wilderness. Three years later a third Constitution was adopted.

Michigan derives its name from an Indian word meaning "great lake." The first settlement was probably made on the Detroit river in 1650 by the French, a temporary mission having been previously established at Sault Ste. Marie in 1641 by the French priests, Joques and Raymbault. The territory was subsequently colonized by the French and ceded to the British, together with Canada, by the treaty of Paris in 1763. By the treaty of 1783, Michigan became a part of the United States, but it was not fully surrendered until 1796. On August 6, 1796, a proclamation was issued by General St. Clair, governor of the Northwest territory, by which he organized the county of Wayne, a county which included the northwest part of Ohio, the northeast part of Indiana and the whole of Michigan—which then included a part of Wisconsin.

When the territory of Indiana was organized, on May 7, 1800, out of the Northwest territory, the eastern boundary line of Indiana territory was extended northward through the middle of the lower peninsula to the straits of Mackinaw, while the eastern part of Michigan continued a part of the Northwest territory. On January 11, 1805, the territory of Indiana was divided and the territory of Michigan created. The first meeting held to organize the government of the new territory assembled at Detroit on

July 4, 1805, the twenty-ninth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Until after the close of the War of 1812 no further action was taken with regard to the organization of counties. On November 21, 1815, Governor Cass reorganized Wayne county by an executive act and made the boundaries to include all the lands within the territory of Michigan to which the Indian title had been extinguished.

By an act of the Legislative Council of the territory of Michigan, approved March 2, 1831, Montcalm and several other counties were given definite limits. Section 7 of this act provided: "That the country included within the following limits, to wit: West of the line between ranges 4 and 5, east of the line between ranges 8 and 9 west, south of the line between townships 12 and 13, and north of the line between townships 8 and 9 north, containing sixteen townships, be, and the same is hereby set off into a separate county by the name of Montcalm."

THE FIRST SETTLERS.

At that time no township lines had as yet been surveyed, nor had the government, by treaty with the Indians, acquired title to all the lands so described. After an interval of about nine years, during which Montcalm county was attached to St. Joseph, Kalamazoo and Kent counties, it was finally, by an act of the state Legislature approved on April 1, 1840, formally attached to Ionia county. Settlers came into the new territory very fast, and the population grew from year to year. Among these first settlers were John Green, Josiah Russell, Thomas H. Myers, Stephen H. Warren, Rosecrans K. Divine, Westbrook Divine, Luther Lincoln, George Gibson, Anson Ensign, Ethan Satterlee, Frederick W. Worden, Ananias Worden, Elihu Fortner, Samuel D. Barr, Edward Petty, Lyman H. Pratt, H. N. Stinson, Josiah Bradish and Volney Belding. These sturdy pioneers found it extremely difficult to make the journey to the then distant seat of Ionia county, to which it was necessary to go for transaction of any official business, and soon became very insistent for the organization of a separate township.

On March 19, 1845, Montcalm township was formed by act of the state Legislature and was defined to embrace all territory designated by the United States survey as Montcalm county except townships 9 and 10, north of range 5 west, which had been previously attached to North Plains township, in Ionia county. By this act Montcalm township was attached to Ionia county for election, judicial and taxation purposes. The act fixed

the first official meeting place of the township at the house of Anson Ensign. It was here that the electors of the township met on April 7, 1845. The board of elections consisted of Stephen H. Warren, moderator; George Gibson, Josiah Russell, Ethan Satterlee and Rosecrans K. Divine, inspectors, and Josiah Russell and Rosecrans K. Divine, clerks. Thirty-six electors who appeared at this meeting chose the following officials: Frederick W. Worden, supervisor; Josiah Russell, township clerk; Rosecrans K. Divine, treasurer; George Gibson, Stephen F. Warren, John Green and Elihu Fortner, justices of the peace; Samuel B. Barr and Ethan Satterlee, assessors; Westbrook Divine, Edward Petty, Lyman H. Pratt, commissioners of highways; H. N. Stinson, Josiah Bradish, Ananias Worden, school inspectors; Volney Belding, Josiah Bradish, directors of the poor, and Henry S. Halford, Jonathan Gould, Lorenzo Whitney and Lyman H. Pratt, constables. It is rather remarkable that of the thirty-six present at the first township election, nineteen of this number were elected to office and two of the nineteen were chosen to fill two offices each.

FIRST ASSESSMENT FOR TAXATION.

In 1846 the real estate of Montcalm township was valued at \$29,945.28, and this property paid a county tax of \$209.62 and a state tax of \$74.86. Ananias Worden succeeded Frederick W. Worden as supervisor in 1846 and he was succeeded by Josiah Russell in 1847. Russell was succeeded by Rosecrans K. Divine in 1849. In this connection, the basis of the assessment of property for taxation in 1850, the first levy made by the board of supervisors after the organization of Montcalm county, is interesting. At this meeting, held at Greenville, on April 9, 1850, the following rates of assessment were agreed upon: "Wild land, ten shillings per acre; improvement, ten shillings per acre; good house, like A. French's, \$125; ditto, like Becker's, \$75; ditto, like Green's, \$50; good barn, \$25; good span of horses, \$25; good yoke of oxen, \$10; good wagon, \$10; good cow, \$4; good two-year-old steer, \$2; good two-year-old colt, \$4; good sheep, 25c.; good double saw-mill, \$400; good single saw-mill, \$300."

By an act of the Michigan Legislature, approved on March 20, 1850, Montcalm county began an independent career as one of the political units of this commonwealth. By this act, however, Montcalm county was made a part of Ionia county for judicial purposes and it was also left attached to Ionia county for the purpose of electing a representative in the state

Legislature. A temporary county seat was fixed within the present limits of Eureka township at what came to be the city of Greenville, but the act specifically provided for the permanent location of the seat of justice by the supervisors elected ten years later, in 1860.

Montcalm county, no doubt, was named for Louis Joseph, Marquis de Montcalm de Saint Veran, a distinguished French officer who was born near Nimes, February 28, 1712, and was killed in the defense of Quebec, September 14, 1759.

THE ENABLING ACT.

A complete copy of the enabling act by which Montcalm county was formally organized is presented herewith:

"Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Michigan, That the county of Montcalm shall be organized, and the inhabitants thereof entitled to all the rights and privileges to which by law the inhabitants of the other organized counties of this state are entitled.

"Sec. 2. That all suits, prosecutions and other matters now pending before any court of record in Ionia county, or before any justice of the peace in said county, or that shall be pending at the time of the taking effect of this act, shall be prosecuted to final judgment and execution; and all taxes heretofore levied and now due shall be collected in the same manner as though the county of Montcalm had not been organized.

"Sec. 3. There shall be elected in the said county of Montcalm on the first Monday of April, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty, all the several county officers to which by law the said county is entitled; and said election shall in all respects be conducted and held in the manner prescribed by law for holding elections for county and state officers: Provided, That until such county officers are elected and qualified the proper county officers of the county of Ionia shall perform all the duties appertaining to said county of Montcalm, in the same manner as though this act had not been passed: And, Provided further, That the county officers so to be elected shall be qualified and enter upon the duties of their respective offices on or before the fifteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty.

"Sec. 4. The board of canvassers in said county, under this act, shall consist of the presiding inspectors of elections from each township therein, and said inspectors shall meet at the county seat of said county at the time appointed by law for the county canvass, and immediately after the election

authorized in the third section of this act, and organize by appointing one of their number chairman and another secretary of said board, and shall thereupon proceed to discharge all the duties of a board of county canvassers as in ordinary cases of election for county and state officers.

"Sec. 5. That the county of Montcalm, when so organized, and the county of Ionia shall constitute one representative district, and the election returns of said district shall be made at the county seat of the county of Ionia.

"Sec. 6. The circuit court for the county of Ionia shall have the same jurisdiction over the said county of Montcalm that it would have had this act not been passed, until otherwise provided by law.

"Sec. 7. That it shall be the duty of the sheriff of said county of Montcalm to provide some suitable place for holding courts in said county, at the county seat thereof, until public buildings shall be erected.

"Sec. 8. That the county seat of the said county of Montcalm shall be, and the same is hereby, fixed and established on the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section sixteen, in township number nine north, range number eight west, until the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty, and until the same shall be permanently located as hereinafter provided; and the supervisors elected for the year eighteen hundred and sixty in said county shall have the power, and it shall be their duty, to permanently locate the county seat of said county: Provided, That the inhabitants of the county shall not be taxed for the erection of county buildings until the permanent location of the county seat is made, as provided in section eight of this act.

"Sec. 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

"Approved, March 20. 1850."

THE FIRST ELECTION.

According to the provisions of this act, the voters of four townships, Bushnell, Eureka, Fairplain and Montcalm, met at the polls on Monday, April 1, 1850, and elected county officials. The returns from Fairplain township, consisting of 53 votes, were thrown out because of irregularities and in the three remaining townships a total of 133 votes were cast. Of these votes, Josiah Russell received 129 for county judge and Ethan Satterlee 120 for second judge. Stephen H. Warren was elected probate judge over I. Fifield, receiving 122 votes to Fifield's 4. Enos T. Peck was

chosen county clerk. Gibson S. Fargo was elected the first sheriff, receiving 125 out of 126 votes cast for this office. For county clerk, Henry M. Moore was elected, receiving 87 votes to 35 cast for Ananias Worden, and 4 for Henry W. Moore. John Porter was the only candidate for county treasurer. Newcomb J. Ireland was elected register of deeds over Hiram H. Slawson, receiving 85 votes to Slawson's 36. For county surveyor, Josiah Bradish received 122 votes and Josiah Russell 1. For county coroners, Chauncey Olmsted received 119 and John Green 126. Rosecrans K. Divine, of Eureka township, Volney Belding, of Montcalm township, and Rufus K. Moore, of Fairplain township, were elected members of the board of supervisors.

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

At the first meeting of the Montcalm county board of supervisors, held at Greenville, April 9, 1850, all the members of the board were present. The board appointed the "public house of Morton Shearer at Greenville as a place for holding the county courts of Montcalm county, and a bargain was accordingly made by the sheriff with Mr. Shearer for the use of his house for said purpose at one dollar per day." At this meeting the first certificate of the killing of a wolf in Montcalm county was presented by Hiram Rossman, of Eureka township, and a bounty of \$8 allowed Rossman. Between 1850 and the close of 1860, a total of \$1,320 was paid in bounties for the killing of 231 wolves. Many of these bounties were paid to Indians.

The second meeting of the board of supervisors was held on April 17, 1850, attended by R. K. Divine, of Eureka, Volney Belding, of Montcalm, R. K. Moore, of Fairplain, and C. W. Olmsted, of Bushnell. After the reading of the minutes of the first meeting, the chairman and clerk of the board were authorized to issue county orders, bearing interest from date, "to the amount necessary to pay the expenses of the county up to the middle of October next." It seems that Daniel Munger having declined to furnish the necessary books for the county, the clerk of the board was directed to order books from A. S. Bagg, of Detroit. The board of supervisors also authorized the chairman and clerk to procure a county seal.

At the third meeting of the board, held on October 14, 1850, the following claims were allowed: E. R. Powell, for printing county orders, \$9; A. Monroe, for going to Ionia for books, \$2; I. Russell, freight on county books, \$7.50; A. Roosa, serving notices on supervisors, \$2. On the

next day other accounts were audited and allowed as follows: G. S. Fargo, \$5.50; Morton Shearer, \$8; S. H. Warren, \$1.75; A. S. Bagg, \$130.25; John Porter, treasurer, \$7; E. B. Burrington, \$3.54; R. K. Divine, \$12.25; C. W. Olmsted, \$10.74; R. K. Moore, \$9.12, and J. Russell, service as judge, \$1. The county clerk of Ionia county was allowed \$20 for his services for acting also as clerk of Montcalm county. The journal of the board of supervisors shows that there was raised by taxation in Montcalm county in 1850 for state purposes, \$80.44, and for county purposes, \$350.

Another entry in the journal of the board of supervisors shows the valuation of taxable property in the several townships of Montcalm county for 1850, together with the apportionment of state and county taxes to the different townships for 1850:

Townships.	As assessed.	As equalized.	Personal.	Total.	State.	County.
Bushnell	\$ 6,952.50	\$ 6,952.50	\$ 893.00	\$ 7,845.50	\$ 9.46	\$41.27½
Eureka	24,600.98	24,600.98	1,504.62	26,105.60	31.45	136.70
Fairplain	18,127.39	18,127.39	1,031.50	19,158.89	23.08	100.43½
Montcalm	12,542.24	12,542.24	1,114.00	13,656.24	16.45	71.59
Total	\$62,223.11	\$62,223.11	\$4,543.12	\$66,766.23	\$80.44	\$350.00

REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY VALUATIONS.

Before the levy of 1852 was made Bloomer township had been organized and the total real and personal property, as equalized, had increased to \$98,430, with a county tax of \$500 and a state tax of \$387.71. The statement of valuations for real and personal property for 1853 shows that total values had risen to \$291,645 and that 1,847 out of 90,933 acres of land in the county was improved. The total valuation of all property in 1854 was \$501,882; in 1855 it was \$795,612, and in 1856 it was \$893,581. There was a reduction in valuations for real and personal property for 1857, but the valuations rose again to \$908,900 in 1858. By this time Pierson, Cato, Evergreen, Sidney, Feris and Crystal townships had been organized.

In 1859 the total valuation for real and personal property in Montcalm county for the first time exceeded a million dollars, the aggregate valuations for all property being returned by the board of supervisors at \$1,027,517.

From certain records on file in Montcalm county it appears that Judge Epaphroditus Ransom, afterwards governor of the state, made the first land entry in Montcalm county. In June, July and August, 1835, he

entered certain parts of sections 1 and 2, township 9 north, range 5 west, and section 36, in township 10 north, range 5 west. The first transfer of lands between individuals was made on October 18, 1837, by Benjamin Young, of Ontario county, New York, to Carso Crane, of the same county and state. The first entry transfer of lands made by Newcomb J. Ireland, first register of deeds in Montcalm county, was made to Ebenezer Salyer on May 2, 1850. Luther Lincoln is believed to have been the first settler in Montcalm county, having lived near the junction of Flat river and Black creek as early as the spring of 1837. The first marriage recorded in the county records was that of Benjamin Weaver, of Otisco, Ionia county, to Gertrude Stockholm, of Eureka township, the ceremony having been performed on March 19, 1851, by the Rev. Wilson Mosher.

LOCATION OF THE COUNTY SEAT.

The act of the Michigan Legislature which provided for the organization of Montcalm county temporarily located the county seat at Greenville, but provided for the permanent location of the county seat by the board of supervisors elected in 1860. The original act also specifically set forth that no tax should be levied for the erection of county buildings until a permanent seat had been chosen. Until the present county seat was selected in 1860 all official business was transacted at Greenville, the early court meeting at the house of Morton Shearer. The people of Greenville were anxious to retain the county seat and made at least one significant move in that direction. They obtained the incorporation of Pierson township, previously a part of Mecosta county and which then included the present territory of Pierson, Winfield, Maple Valley and Reynolds townships, in order, no doubt, to add weight to their cause, since this territory lay to the northwest of Greenville.

The original act, approved on March 20, 1850, was amended by an act of January 29, 1859, to provide that although the supervisors might designate a place for the county seat, the question would have to be submitted to the people for ratification at the next general election.

When the Montcalm county board of supervisors met for the first time in 1860 (January 10), the following representatives appeared for each of the ten townships then organized: Bloomer, William Patrick; Cato, Albert S. French; Crystal, John Burk; Eureka, Westbrook Divine; Evergreen, Mortimer Gilleo; Fairplain, Martin P. Follett; Ferris, Peter Schlippi; Montcalm, Stephen Rossman; Pierson, George A. Page, and Sid-

ney, Ira Barlow. Meetings were held on the 10th, 11th and 12th, and on the last day the board adjourned to meet on April 10, 1860, to consider the location of a county seat. At this meeting John S. Smith appeared in place of John Burk as the representative from Crystal township, Aaron Lyon appeared in place of William Patrick as the representative from Bloomer, George F. Case appeared instead of Mortimer Gilleo for Evergreen, and William Castel appeared for Bushnell township, lately organized.

BEGINNING OF THE RIVALRY.

At the session of the supervisors on April 11, 1860, the board resolved itself into a committee of the whole to examine different locations proposed for a county seat and on the same day a motion to locate the county seat in the city of Greenville was lost by a vote of seven to three, Messrs. Rossman, Divine and French voting in favor of the motion and Messrs. Smith, Lyon, Schlappi, Barlow, Follett, Case and Castel voting against it. A little later, a motion submitted by Peter Schlappi, to locate the county seat on the northeast quarter of section 1, township 10 north, range 7 west, carried by a vote of seven to three, the supervisors who had voted against Greenville voting "yes" in this case and the supervisors who had stood for Greenville voting "no" in this case. This act of the supervisors was submitted to the people in November, 1860, and carried by a vote of 504 to 374. Early in 1861 a committee, consisting of Westbrook Divine, Albert S. French and William Castel, was appointed to fix the exact location of the county building.

On January 3, 1860, a motion, made by Peter Schlappi, that \$1,000 be expended by the county in the erection of county buildings, consisting of a court house and jail and offices for the county clerk, treasurer and register of deeds, was defeated for want of a two-thirds majority, the vote being six to five in favor of the proposition. Another motion, however, authorizing John L. Smith to procure a deed from Frederick Hall for the site chosen for the county buildings, was carried. Mr. Smith obtained the deed and made his report next day. Several efforts were made to get the necessary appropriation for the erection of county buildings, but no affirmative action was taken until June 12, 1860, when an appropriation of \$1,000 was obtained by a vote of seven to four. The next day a motion carried for the appropriation of \$500 for clearing off the site of the county seat and laying out a town.

Frederick Hall sold to Montcalm county the site of the present seat

of the county for \$50 and in consideration of his liberality the town was named "Fred" for him. Later, however, when it came time to establish a postoffice at the county seat, the application papers were drawn up and the name of the postoffice left blank. These papers were sent to Mr. Hall with the suggestion that he supply whatever name he desired. Mr. Hall was at that time a great admirer of Edwin M. Stanton, then secretary of war under President Lincoln, and he therefore filled in the name "Stanton" in the blank space and the county seat of Montcalm county was permanently named. This change in the name of the county seat was recognized by the Legislature in an act approved on February 23, 1863. Stanton became an incorporated village by act of the supervisors on October 18, 1867.

FIRST COURT HOUSE AT STANTON.

According to authority of the Montcalm county board of supervisors, the first court house was erected at Fred, now Stanton, in 1860, and this served the purposes of the county until 1870, when a brick structure replaced the old wooden building so far as the judge of probate, register of deeds, county clerk and county treasurer were concerned. Both buildings, however, were used for offices and a jail until 1880. The "fire-proof building," erected in 1870, cost about \$1,500 and was erected by Seth Sprague. Generally speaking, Montcalm county's malefactors were confined in the county jail at Ionia until 1870, although it is certain that the upper part of Abel French's store was used for a time.

From 1860 to 1880 several attempts were made to obtain an appropriation for suitable and safe county buildings at Stanton, but to the feeling of the people of Greenville and vicinity that the seat might sometime be restored to their fair city, the failure of these several efforts may be attributed.

"There were no shutters or vaults in either of the buildings," says a political tract issued while the campaign for the present court house was being carried on, "and during all of the time they were in use any enterprising thief on a dark night could have broken in at a window and have carried away all of the nearly priceless records of the real estate of this county, as the books in every office were kept on open shelves."

In the spring of 1879 the question was submitted to a direct vote of the people whether \$10,000, together with a like amount to be contributed by the people of Stanton, should be raised to erect a new court house. The proposition carried by a vote of 2,482 to 1,316, and a contract was sub-

sequently let to Jacob C. Consaul, of Fair Haven. William Backus, William F. Turner and W. D. Bellows were designated as a building committee from the board of supervisors and work on the new structure begun about August 1, 1879. The building was completed and occupied in July, 1880, and cost altogether about \$23,000. This building contained fine offices for all the county officials and substantial vaults which saved the records in the 1905 fire. The late Clarence W. Chapin, who was well known in Montcalm county as one of the leading bankers of Stanton, had previously raised \$600 by popular subscription, which was spent in grading the court house grounds.

DEDICATING THE NEW BUILDING.

The new court house, built in 1879-80, was formally dedicated July 5, 1880, the dedicatory address being delivered by Hon. John Lewis, of Greenville, former prosecuting attorney of Montcalm county, and later judge of the probate court. Apparently, there was a lurking suspicion in the minds of the people of the county that Mr. Lewis might discuss phases of politics to which they did not care to listen, for the assurance was given in the *Weekly Clipper* of June 25, 1880, that the speech would be free from local politics.

"To correct an error under which some of the people of the county are laboring," said the *Clipper*, "we would say that there will be nothing political mixed up with the dedicatory ceremonies of July 5. The orator of the day has been especially informed that his hearers want nothing of the kind, but expect something adapted only to the occasion, viz: The dedication of our new temple of justice. He will not make a Fourth of July oration in the ordinary acceptation of the term, so our hearers may rest assured that there will be nothing that will grate harshly on the most sensitive ears."

A careful reading of extracts from the address bears out the above promise or pledge. Mr. Lewis did, however, make the statement that at the time the first session of the circuit court was held in Stanton, in June, 1862, there were but two buildings in Stanton, the court house and a log tavern which occupied the site of what came to be the Stanton House, kept by one Roosa.

In some unexplained way, the court house erected in 1879-80 caught fire about ten o'clock in the morning, February 16, 1905, and burned to the ground. A considerable portion of the old brick walls were left standing, and with \$20,000 insurance it was planned to erect another court house at once. Plans were obtained and paid for by the county at a cost

of \$500 for the erection of another structure, without a jail in the basement, for the sum of \$19,945, but proceedings were halted by litigation and a proposition submitted to the voters April 3, 1905, to bond the county for \$40,000 was defeated by a vote of 3,774 to 3,197, a majority of 577. On April 2, 1906, the same proposition was defeated by a vote of 3,455 to 3,214, a majority of 241. Later in the same year, November 6, a proposition of bond the county for \$30,000, was defeated, 2,474 to 2,231, a majority of 231 against. On April 1, 1907, the same proposition was defeated, 3,074 to 2,731, a majority of 343. No further vote was taken until April 5, 1909, when a \$50,000 bond issue was defeated by a vote of 4,113 to 3,920, a majority of 193.

BOND ISSUE FINALLY CARRIED.

By this time the people of Stanton and vicinity were thoroughly aroused and when the proposition was submitted the next time they were well organized and the court house bond issue carried at the election held on April 4, 1910, by a majority of 31. The vote by authority of which the present court house was erected, by voting districts, was as follows:

District.	Yes.	No.
Belvidere -----	241	45
Bloomer -----	201	102
Bushnell -----	62	83
Cato -----	47	226
Crystal -----	217	53
Day -----	342	20
Douglass -----	242	21
Eureka -----	3	143
Evergreen -----	212	91
Fairplain -----	43	108
Ferris -----	236	9
Home -----	290	24
Maple Valley -----	33	374
Montcalm -----	16	213
Pierson -----	16	131
Pine -----	30	173
Reynolds -----	56	189
Richland -----	186	33
Sidney -----	120	128

District.	Yes.	No.
Winfield -----	23	124
Greenville, first ward -----	32	220
Greenville, second ward -----	59	334
Greenville, third ward -----	54	290
Stanton, first ward -----	240	---
Stanton, second ward -----	165	1

Total -----	2,966	2,935
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Majority for bond issue, 31.

Stanton's joy hardly knew any bounds after this event. A struggle of five years had culminated finally with complete success and the people no doubt had a right to feel jubilant. A brief article in the *Edmore Times*, appearing after the election, describes somewhat humorously, the feeling of different sections of the county.

"'Not a bloody, bloomin' thing was done' at Stanton for more than four hours after it was known that the court house bonding proposition was carried Monday night only for the citizens to howl. The band came out, dynamite was shot off and the fire whistle blew so long and loud that it woke up the dead at Greenville.

"Even citizens of Edmore, wearing broad smiles, sat out on their porches and listened to Stanton's musical fire alarm and saw and heard the fireworks nine miles in the distance.

"It seemed to be catching and the bullfrogs in Crystal lake and the citizens of McBride all joined in the chorus.

"Over at Lakeview, Howard City, Coral and Greenville the lights were turned out and everybody went to roost early. Not even a cock has crowed in either one of these towns since.

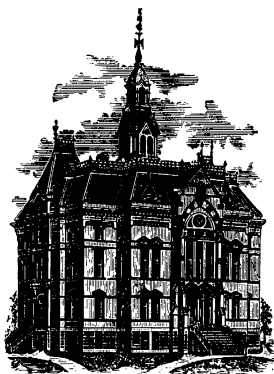
"After 'Jim' Haskins, of the *Howard City Record*, got the returns he quietly slid his stereotyped court house editorial into the 'hell box' and crawled under the bed covers. His devil will issue the paper this week."

LEADERSHIP OF S. PERRY YOUNGS.

Five years after the resolution adopted by the Montcalm county board of supervisors for the bond issue of \$50,000 with which to build the present court house, was indorsed by the people at the polls, it seems proper to give credit where credit is due. No man had quite as much to do with Stan-

ton's final and complete victory as S. Perry Youngs. His name does not appear on the tablet in the court house. Nevertheless, he was the leading spirit in obtaining favorable action on the resolution in 1910 and was at that time a member of the board. Having in the meantime been appointed supervisor of the census, he was not permitted to accept another election in 1910. The secret of Mr. Youngs' ultimate success in obtaining the new court house was a spirit of undaunted courage and unfailing determination. Throughout the many unsuccessful campaigns he never for one moment lost hope in ultimate triumph. Even the friends of Stanton had despaired of success and sought to postpone the issue in 1910, when Mr. Youngs began to muster his forces for another campaign. There are unwritten incidents of the final campaign which it were better, no doubt, not to set down here, but in everything the leader of the Stanton forces displayed courage of a rare order. Of course, everything else was subordinated to the main issue, and Mr. Youngs so well knew the strength of his opponents and the weaknesses of his friends that he was able to counteract the one and bolster up the other. He did most of the detail work as well, including the preparation of a voluminous amount of campaign literature, which was circulated with good effect among the doubtful voters. In all of this, Mr. Youngs was fortified with experiences gained not only from 1906 to 1910, but likewise from the campaign for the court house of 1879, in which he was prominent. In the campaign of 1879 the leader of the Stanton forces was the venerable H. H. Hinds, who is still living in Stanton.

At a meeting of the supervisors, held on April 13, 1910, Smith A. Booth, of Greenville, Wyllys R. Thomas, of Stanton, and Frank Boyer, of Day township, were appointed a committee to advertise for bids for the sale of bonds for the new court house, and April 28, 1910, fixed as the day of opening bids and selling the bonds. On the same date, April 13, a building committee, consisting of George Holland, of Sidney township, chairman; Henry S. Sharp, of Montcalm township, and Edwin Porter, of Douglass township, was appointed. The contractor's bond covering the construction of the new court house and jail was also fixed at this meeting at \$20,000. The bonds were duly disposed of and Edwyn A. Bowd, of Lansing, selected as the architect. The contract for the construction of the present court house was let, therefore, to Wright & Prall, of Ionia, June 24, 1910, their bid being \$58,280.68, and included, besides the court house, a jail and sheriff's residence and a power house. The contract for heating was let to Henry Gable, of Ionia, for \$3,168.33, and for plumbing the



OLD COURT HOUSE, STANTON.



FIRST AND SECOND COURT HOUSES AND JAIL.



three buildings to Mr. Gable for \$2,034.36. A beautiful tablet in the main corridor of the first floor gives the names of the supervisors at the time the building was being erected. These names will long be remembered in the history of the county and are as follows: Robert Evans, chairman; W. Glenn Abbott, clerk; Charles F. Dickinson, R. Arthur Carothers, Jacob M. Parkhurst, Franklin B. Henkel, Jesse L. Vanwormer, George A. Fournie, Thomas W. Musson, George W. Miller, Lucius L. Church, William T. Fisk, James H. Steere, Frank W. Bailey, James P. Throop, John E. Taylor, Edwin Porter, Henry S. Sharp, Vir C. Allchin, John H. Jenson, Smith A. Booth, Frank Boyer, John Bannen, Eno C. Yanke, Wyllys R. Thomas and George Holland.

DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY BUILDINGS.

The building of the present Montcalm county court house, jail and sheriff's residence occupied about two years. The court house is a magnificent structure built of buff brick, trimmed with stone, and is adequate for every purpose of the county. It is thoroughly fire-proof and, being situated on an eminence in the west part of Stanton, may be seen for many miles. The people of Montcalm county are justly proud of this splendid temple of justice and of the enterprising spirit of its citizens who made it possible. The present jail and sheriff's residence, which was erected on a lot south of the court house, is also built of pressed buff brick and presents a very attractive appearance. The sheriff's residence is in the front and the jail in the rear. The present accommodations for prisoners are in marked contrast with the accommodations furnished in the old court house when prisoners were housed in the basement.

Interesting in this connection is a report made by an agent of the state board of corrections and charities and published in the *Stanton Weekly Clipper* of February 15, 1889.

"I visited the jail of Montcalm county on February 10," says the agent. "A great improvement has been made in bringing out the iron bars so as to allow the prisoners to be kept within the bars. They can no longer communicate with those without, and receive tools through the windows. The general condition of the jail is good. With care of the sewer pipes, there should be no odors. The great need is a bath tub. Men coming in in a filthy condition should be required to wash themselves thoroughly. The woman's room should be put in better condition, and might be used for boys when not needed for women. The jail has the necessary disadvantages of

a jail under a court house. The classification and separation the law calls for is impracticable. I found nine men and two boys, one man held for nearly a year. There is opportunity for doing good in some suitable person holding a service on Sunday and in furnishing proper reading. The men listened respectfully to a service I conducted."

CARE OF DEPENDENTS IN MONTCALM COUNTY.

Although little information is available bearing upon the care of the poor in Montcalm county prior to 1860, it seems reasonable to believe they were well cared for, inasmuch as during the War of the Rebellion the county expended \$36,816.91 in aid of soldiers' families while the population of the county was only three thousand nine hundred and eighty-four in 1860. Several attempts were made to purchase a county poor farm prior to 1860. On October 12, 1859, William Backus, of Eureka township, and Asa Ward, of Crystal township, were appointed as supervisors of the poor for the ensuing year. On the next day, provision was made to advertise for sealed proposals for the purchase of a county poor farm, but nothing further seems to have been done. Five hundred dollars, however, was voted to pay past indebtedness on account of the poor, the balance to be applied to expenses for the ensuing year. On January 11, 1860, a motion was made by Supervisor Westbrook Divine to buy a county poor farm, the cost not to exceed \$1,200 and interest not to exceed seven per cent. This motion carried by a vote of six to four, Messrs. French, Divine, Follett, Page, Rossman and Barlow voting in favor of it and Messrs. Patrick, Burk, Gilleo and Schlappi voting against it. Three days later a portion of the present county poor farm located in sections 5 and 8, township 9 north, range 7, west, was purchased of Maria M. Light for \$900. On October 30, 1868, an additional purchase was made from Ervin Sanford for \$1,000. The present county farm, which consists of one hundred and twenty acres or thereabout, is located as above described in Fairplain township, a few miles northeast of Greenville.

It is a remarkable fact that the cost of assisting the poor has not increased in proportion to the increase in population. The total expense incurred on account of the poor in 1880, for instance, was \$8,379.58, and a report of the superintendents of the poor for the year ending September 30, 1915, shows that the net expense for the last year was only \$7,262.48. A summary of the superintendents' report for September 30, 1915, shows the following:

Total expenses for townships and wards for temporary relief	\$3,826.37
Total expense for county farm	772.10
Total expense of county infirmary	3,305.69
Grand total of expenses	7,904.16
Credit by amount paid to county treasurer	641.68

Total net expenses for the year\$7,262.48

The total number of inmates enrolled at the county farm in 1915 was forty-six, of whom twenty-five were males and twenty-one females. The average enrollment was thirty-eight. Four deaths occurred at the infirmary in 1915.

CHAPTER III.

TOWNSHIP HISTORY.

In the following pages are presented the history of the various townships of Montcalm county, comprising a brief sketch of the organization, the names of the original petitioners, when they are disclosed by the records, topography and general characteristics of the soil, the original land entries and first settlements. The later history of each township properly comes within the scope of the general history of the county and is covered in the several chapters on agriculture, industry, education, secret and fraternal orders, transportation, etc.

BELVIDERE TOWNSHIP.

Belvidere township, which was the eighteenth township erected in this county, is located in the extreme north central part of Montcalm county. It is designated on the government survey as township 12 north, range 7 west, and is bounded as follows: On the north by Mecosta county, on the east by Home township, on the south by Douglass township and on the west by Cato township.

Belvidere township was organized by the board of supervisors on March 7, 1867, but the minutes of the meetings of the board of supervisors from December 2, 1866, to October 14, 1867, are missing, and hence the business of that body at the time the township was organized has been lost. It is also very unfortunate that the petition for the erection of this township has also been misplaced and it is impossible to give the names of the petitioners. It is an established certainty that the first election was held at the house of William Garden on the 1st of April, 1867. The meeting was called to order by George Stevenson, and William Gardner was appointed moderator. The total number of votes cast was nine and there were eight different voters elected to office, so one voter did not receive an office of trust in the newly-created township. The ballot box used at this first election was a wooden box made of rough boards, in which a hole was bored for the reception of the ballots, after which formality the lid was knocked off and the

votes counted. The following is the list of officers elected at this meeting: George Wysel, supervisor; William Wysel, clerk; William Bock, treasurer; John Hammel, George Wysel and George Stevenson, highway commissioners; William Gardner, William Taylor, George Stevenson and William Wysel, justices; Samuel Smith and George Wysel, constables. It was also voted at this election to raise two hundred dollars for highway purposes, and also that the next township meeting be held at the house of William Wysel. Thus the township of Belvidere took on a definite organization and assumed a place along with the other seventeen townships of the county.

The soil in the northern part of Belvidere township is of a sandy loam, and in the early days there was an abundance of pine timber; towards the south the soil becomes heavier, and the dense growth of pine gradually gave way to a heavy growth of beech and maple. The agricultural pursuits of the settlers have been looked after to a greater extent since the land has been cleared of its timber. The first general advance in farming was made in the southern part, but of later years advanced methods of farming have been taken up in the northern part also.

Belvidere is drained by Flat river, its surface in general sloping towards the source of that stream on the northwest quarter of section 15, where it serves as the outlet of a system of six lakes, situated on sections 12, 14 and 15, and of several streams of considerable importance from the north, east and south, which flow into them. The whole system served as an extensive reservoir, in which, by a dam, the waters were retained for the purpose of raising the river when large quantities of logs were to be rafted to the mills at Greenville, Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. There are a number of other fine lakes in the township—Town Line lake, situated on the line of Cato and Belvidere, being the largest. Horse Shoe lake, named from its peculiar form, is in the adjoining sections 19, 20, 30 and 31. Wysel lake, Penny lake and Long lake are all connected with Flat river.

LAND ENTRIES.

Section 2—Henry T. Stringham, John F. Morris. Section 3—Henry T. Stringham, Edwin F. French. Section 4—Henry T. Stringham, John Squires, Edwin F. French. Section 5—Henry T. Stringham, John Squires. Section 8—Henry T. Stringham. Section 9—Henry T. Stringham, Edward C. Gallup, Henry T. Stringham. Section 10—Henry T. Stringham, Edward C. Gallup. Section 11—Henry T. Stringham, Edward C. Gallup.

Section 12—Sidney M. Root, James M. Kidd, Edmund Hall. Section 13—John Ely, S. M. Root, J. M. Soverhill, J. M. Kidd, R. E. Lance, Edmund Hall. Section 14—John J. Ely, Henry T. Stringham. Section 15—Henry T. Stringham, E. K. Wood, Edmund Hall. Section 16—Joseph L. Kelsey, Ambrose Atwood, James Coleman, O. P. Gould, A. S. French, Albert S. French, Albert Sage, Leonard C. Sumner, Dana S. Gibson, D. Summers. Section 17—Henry H. Crapo. Section 18—Henry H. Crapo. Section 19—Henry H. Crapo. Section 20—Henry H. Crapo. Section 21—S. Hill, Aloney Rust, Henry H. Crapo, Benjamin Joy, Elijah Wilder, John Hammel, Albert S. French. Section 22—Lysander Hill, Edward C. Gallup, William Taylor, Philander Gowe and George Isham, Joseph L. Kelsey, E. K. Wood, Edmund Hall. Section 23—Julia A. Clark. Section 24—John J. Ely, James M. Soverhill, Lannon B. Townsend, John Stout. Section 25—Julia Ann Clark, L. B. Townsend. Section 26—Julia Ann Clark, Josiah J. Morris. Section 27—John Whitner, George Wysel, William Wysel, Philander R. Howe and George Isham, Anson Ware, John G. Whipple. Section 28—Aloney Rust, Henry H. Crapo, Charles E. Ellsworth, John C. Blanchard, Joseph L. Kelsey. Section 29—Aloney Rust, Jacob Davis, Frank S. Peck, Henry H. Crapo. Section 30—Aloney Rust, Stephen F. Page, Jacob A. Davis, Henry H. Crapo, Silas L. Smith, D. C. Moore. Section 31—Aloney Rust, Stephen F. Page, Carso Crane, Samuel B. Peck, Lewis E. Smith, Benjamin Joy, John J. Ely, D. C. Moore. Section 32—Aloney Rust, Stephen F. Page, Joseph J. Shearer. Section 33—Jonas Snyder, Aloney Rust, Cornelius Slaght. Section 34—Aloney Rust, Hiram Bopinan, Allen Wright, Henry M. Cawkin. Section 35—William Gardner, Philander Howe and George Isham, Henry Cawkin, Baw and Spencer, Edmund Hale. Section 36—Julia Ann Clark, George Stevenson, William D. Mason Miles, Emma A. Ripley.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

William Goodwater, who as early as 1855-56 settled near the south line of section 33, is regarded as the first white man who, with his family, entered the wilds of Belvidere. Aside from the fact, and that he subsequently became a resident of Douglass, little is known of him. He built a small log cabin, but made no other improvements of importance. Being of small stature and owing to some business transaction with a party of settlers from the south part of the county who stopped at his cabin while on their way to fish in the lake on section 28, he was thenceforth known as Penny

Goodwater. Although the circumstance which occasioned this singular use of the word has passed from the memory of men, and even the location of his cabin can no longer be designated, the lake before referred to on the southeast quarter of section 28, as well as the smaller one in Douglass, near which he subsequently lived, received their names from this circumstance, the former being known as Big Penny and the latter as Little Penny lake. Goodwater remained in Belvidere but a few years, when, selling his claim, he removed to Douglass.

Many years elapsed before another settler came in. William Gardner, from New York, who entered the north half of the northeast quarter of section 35, in the fall of 1864, was probably the next. He built a log cabin, and the following February brought his family—a wife, two sons and two daughters. To clear a piece of land was his first work after safely housing his family. But to do this in the heavy timber, alone without a team, was a slow and severe task. The large trunks of trees could not be removed from the place where they fell, and were reduced with the axe to such dimensions as enabled them to be carried away or burned where they fell, and being green at times they required an almost indefinite amount of labor and patience. By spring, however, constant effort had not only cleared but prepared nearly two acres ready for planting to corn, potatoes and smaller vegetables.

The following winter both sons died within a week of each other, theirs being the first deaths in the township. They were named, respectively, Guian H. and Willie S. Gardner. There was no funeral service, there being at that time neither minister nor neighbors in the township. They were interred at the cemetery at Westville.

In 1866 William Taylor and George Wysel came in. George Stevenson entered land about the same time, but the wilderness did not retain him long, and he did not settle permanently until some years after George Wysel settled on section 27, near the lake which still bears his name. Both built cabins and brought families to the township, where they lived until their deaths. The same year William Wysel and William Buck came in. The former settled near his brother George, on section 27; the latter did not become a permanent settler, although he lived here for a time. William Wysel raised the first frame house in the township, but it was a small and unstable building. The first frame barn was built at Six lakes by the lumber company. The first grain barn was built by William Gardner as late as 1875.

The next settler was John Hammel, who built a cabin near the banks

of Flat river, in the central part of the township, but finding subsequently that he had made improvements on land held by another, owing to a mistake in taking the minutes of his land, he abandoned the claim and entered or purchased a claim on section 32, where he built the first frame dwelling house in Belvidere, and where he resided until his death in 1879. Among the first settlers were Milo Rhodes, George Stevenson, John Brennon, Roderick Kennedy, Julius Rhodes and Lyman Gredy.

Although the township was organized the year previous, no school was taught until the summer of 1868. In the spring of that year the first school district, which comprised one-fourth of the township, directly south of the center, was set off, a meeting called, and the necessary officers elected. The rough boards of which the school house was made were bought with money raised among the inhabitants by subscription. When the material had been collected and the shakes for the room prepared, they assembled and the work of construction was of short duration. The house stood near the south quarter post on section 22.

SUMNERVILLE.

Sumnerville, the first village platted in the township, was laid out by L. C. Summer upon his land in 1873. Several lots were at once sold and a number of business places opened, the first being that of C. M. Hunt, who built a store and opened a stock of dry goods and groceries. He subsequently sold and removed to Edmore, where he continued in the trade.

The village became a place of considerable business importance, but when the Chicago, Saginaw & Canada railroad was completed and located its depot near the foot of Six lakes, the superior advantages of this place for a village caused Dr. J. B. Daniels and Hiram Clark to purchase seventy acres of land and lay out a village which they named Six Lakes, after that system. This land comprises the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 16, and the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of the same section, and was purchased from the government by Robert S. Kelsey and son, who owned two thousand two hundred and ninety-six acres, mostly pine lands, in the township of Belvidere. Dr. J. B. Daniels became a permanent resident of his village, where he continued to reside and practice his profession. Hiram Clark opened a picture gallery, but did not reside in the village.

The water power at this place after the death of the elder Kelsey passed into the possession of his son, P. B. Kelsey. At the death of Rich-

ard Roberts, who had been taken in as partner, the property passed into the possession of Boyden & Ackley, of Grand Haven.

The aggregate amount of logs placed in Six Lakes during 1881 reached many millions of feet. The firm of Stinchfield & Company, the largest firm in Six Lakes, placed on an average one hundred and sixty thousand per day in Penny lake, James Darrah averaged forty thousand per day, and the firm of Moses & Company made it ten millions.

With the passing of the timber industry in Belvidere township, Sumnerville gradually begun to decline in prosperity. The few interests which had prospered in this town now found no means of sustenance and immediately began to leave for other parts. Stores and places of business of all kinds were moved away and eventually even the postoffice and depot were taken out of the town. At present Sumnerville is merely a little hamlet with a few scattered houses, but no stores or places of business of any sort.

SIX LAKES.

Six Lakes, as has been previously mentioned, was platted on May 13, 1879, by Henry Cankin, surveyor, for Hiram S. Clark, Benjamin J. Daniels and Thomas Merrick, proprietors. Six Lakes, situated, as it is, on the Pere Marquette railroad, and the only town in Belvidere township, has taken quite a local prominence as a business center for this community. At present Six Lakes has a population of approximately five hundred people. The Six Lakes Elevator Company, with G. C. Marotzke as manager, carries on quite an extensive business in this locality. The other members of this firm are Fred W. Kinde and Fred M. Gross. The State Bank of Six Lakes is one of the strong institutions of the county. Other business firms of Six Lakes are C. E. Cornell, general merchandise; Ida M. Wood, general merchandise and millinery; Len Wood, hardware and drug store; M. Cartwright, general merchandise; Charles Cosselman; H. Gibson & Company, coal; Williams Brothers & Company, of Detroit, have a pickling station here. There are also other smaller businesses, as restaurants, etc. Six Lakes is a quiet little village with two churches. The township hall is also located here. In the past few years Six Lakes has taken on an added growth. In the past year, five dwelling houses have been erected in the village. This village is the potato, bean and stock market for the entire township. The elevator, which has recently been rebuilt with the installation of a bean picker, does an extensive business buying these different products.

CHAPTER IV.

BLOOMER TOWNSHIP.

Bloomer was the first township organized by the supervisors of the newly created county of Montcalm and it was the fifth township established. At the time of the establishment of Bloomer there were only four supervisors, one from each of the four townships. Their minutes of January 6, 1852, state that a petition was presented with twenty signatures who were freeholders in township 9 north, range 5 west. It was resolved by a unanimous vote of the supervisors that towns 9 and 10 north, range 5 west, should be set off from the township of Bushnell and organized into a new township to be called Bloomer. The first election was held at the house of John A. Miner on the first Monday in April, 1852, with the following persons acting as inspectors of election: Asa H. Hawley, Edward Cole and John Richards. Upon the erection of Crystal township the present boundaries of Bloomer were established. It is situated in the extreme southeastern corner of the county and is bounded on the north by Crystal township, on the east by Gratiot county, on the south by Ionia county and on the west by Bushnell township.

The surface of this township is moderately undulating, and is well watered and drained by Fish creek and its branches. Originally the entire township was covered with a heavy growth of beech and maple timber, which up to the time of settlement, and, in fact, many years after, was the retreat of all kinds of wild game peculiar to Michigan. From this source the early settlers secured a large part of their winter provisions, and without it, in some instances, severest want and suffering must have ensued.

Although Epaphroditus Ransom entered the south half of the northeast quarter of section 1 and the south half of the northwest quarter of the same section on the 26th of June, 1835, the largest part of the township remained undisturbed until the year 1849. From that time and during the years 1850-52, the greater part of the land was taken as shown by the records, although there was no permanent settlement until 1850. After the timber was removed, which in itself was a great natural resource, the settlers turned

their attention to farming and the best evidence of their success is merely to take a drive through this township and note the excellent state of cultivation under which the farms are at present and also the excellent farm buildings and homes, where once stood the log shanty.

NAMING THE TOWNSHIP.

The incidents which led to adopt the word "Bloomer" for town 9 north, range 5 west, were as near as can be learned, as follows: At a dance held at the cabin of Isaac Pennington, in the winter of 1851-52, several ladies astonished the good deacons of the Puritanic school (who had stopped there for the night) by appearing in bloomer dresses. When their surprise abated, the dresses were the occasion of some mild jokes, and the term became something of a by-word in the infant colony, and when in the spring of 1852, a name was needed for the township, this one was adopted. This statement is discredited by some, and it is said that a number of citizens desired the township to be called "Bloomingdale," but as there was a township in Van Buren county by this name it was named Bloomer. The weight of testimony is entirely with the first explanation.

ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR 1852.

	Acres.
Anderson Miner, sections 21, 28 -----	320
Ira Brooks, section 35 -----	80
Jeremiah Willson, section 26 -----	160
James Covill, section 23 -----	160
Joseph Roop, section 13 -----	160
William Sherman, section 12 -----	80
Hiram Hunt, section 12 -----	80
S. H. Pennington, section 30 -----	160
T. B. Colton -----	
Mark Wilsey -----	
George Benjamin -----	
G. H. Dennis -----	

The total valuation of personal property in the township of Bloomer, which at that time comprised also town 10 north, range 5 west, was two hundred and seven dollars. The aggregate valuation of real and personal property was sixteen thousand three hundred and twenty-seven dollars.

FIRST ELECTION.

The first election in the township was held at the house of Anderson Miner, in April, 1852, at which time there were present Anderson Miner, James Covill, Jonathan Cole, Ira Brooks, Edward Cole, George Benjamin, Sylvester Pennington, Zadock Heath, Hiram Hunt, William Sherman, Joseph Roop, Jeremiah Willson, John E. Miner, W. S. Miner, David Sebrig, Mark Wilsey, Dr. T. D. Colton, George H. Dennis. At this election the ballot box consisted of a soda box furnished by Mrs. Miner. She also prepared dinner for the entire company.

ORIGINAL LAND PURCHASERS.

The following is a list of persons who entered lands in the township of Bloomer:

Section 1—Epaphroditus Ransom (June 26, 1835), Ira Armstrong.
Section 2—Epaphroditus Ransom, John N. Fowler, Sylvester Bronson, Ira Brooks, Thomas J. Smith. Section 3—John M. Gordon, E. L. Davis, John N. Fowler. Section 4—Thankful Albro, James Cross, E. Davies, John N. Fowler. Section 5—Thankful Albro, Daniel W. Clark, Edward Robinson, William P. Johnson, Simeon S. De Camp, John G. Williams, John N. Fowler, Amos A. King. Section 6—James Donovan, John Shilling, Jr., Stephen F. Page, Levi Trim, Christopher Rice, Mortimer Gilleo, Lorenzo D. Mason, Joshua Bogart, Harvey D. Mason, Newton Gilleo, Alvin Groner. Section 7—William W. King, Susan E. Clock, William Headland, Rebecca Headland, Benjamin Carey, Cyrus Dickenson, Alfred D. Isham, Harvey D. Mason. Section 8—Evander Spaulding, John P. Nellis, John Norris, Jr., Job B. Morris, Levi Smith, John G. Williams, John N. Fowler. Section 9—John B. Allison, James Cross, Benjamin F. Holmes, George Tibbitts, David Aldrich. Section 10—James A. Dickinson, Ira Armstrong, George H. Dennis. Section 11—Thomas R. Brand, John Herrick, George Winsor, Benjamin Fuller, John N. Fowler, William F. Bigelow, Thomas J. Smith. Section 12—Epaphroditus Ransom, John M. Gordon, Robert McClelland, Joseph Roop, Abram Ely, Ira Armstrong, John Kipp, William Chaffin. Section 13—John M. Gordon, Robert McClelland, James R. Langdon, Darius C. Larkins, Joseph Roop, Abram Ely. Section 14—Israil Gillett, Peter B. Casler, Anthony Cornue, Joseph P. House, C. P. House, Samuel Clark, John T. Cornue, Cornelius Bigelow. Section 15—John Johnson,

Thomas Allen, Gary C. Fox, Sidney Thomas, John Cave. Section 16—Moses Bean, P. Barrister, Mary Jane Carl, J. G. Bright, W. H. Chapman. Section 17—Charles Benjamin, Hannah Graves, William Huffle, Joseph Urie, Sidney H. Sherman. Section 18—Isaac Pennington, Charles H. Potter, Matilda Adams, John Smith, Hugh Adams, James A. Clock, Alexander Adams. Section 19—Isaac Pennington, Seth M. Root, Joseph L. Clock, John Richards, Sr. Section 20—Seth M. Root, William Fancher, John Weaver, Robert McGill, Daniel F. Perky. Section 21—John Fish, Ira Wilder, Catharine Post, Betsey Tubb, Jonathan Boyer, Isaac Piper. Section 22—Nathaniel Benton, Abraham Shafer, Elizabeth Cronkrite, Peter Clock, Daniel Bellinger, Heman Pratt, Jay Olmstead, Mark Wilsey. Section 23—James R. Langdon, Robert McClelland, James Covill, Silas Everest, George Covill. Section 24—John M. Gordon, Darius C. Larkins. Section 25—James R. Langdon, John M. Gordon, Daniel Barker, Samuel J. Goff, Isaac Braman. Section 26—James R. Langdon, John G. Welsh, Jeremiah Wilson, Asa Ward, Louis Lovell. Section 27—John G. Welsh, Roswell Paine, Alden Giddings, Seth Roberts, George H. Dennis, Lester C. Bennett. Section 28—Anderson Miner, Henry Fargo, Alden Giddings, Thomas Bainborough, Henry F. Brown, Amasa Aldrich. Section 29—H. Tarrell, William M. Gardiner, John Richards, Thomas Bainborough, Jedidiah W. Lane, H. Bump, John C. Blanchard, William Dorton, John W. Pew. Section 30—Francis Budine, Jonathan Cole, Thomas Covel, Harvey D. Allen, Polly Fowler, S. M. Cornell, A. E. Lindeley. Section 31—Seth M. Root, Charles Knapp, John N. Fowler, Calvin Peters, Richard Sinkey, William Patrick, George Robinson, Nelson Covell. Section 32—Seth M. Root, Alpheus Hawley, Abigail McKelvey, Thomas Stafford, Charles W. Owen, Melvin Laverty, Calvin Peters, Louis Lovell, Gilbert F. D. Wilson, N. Ferris. Section 33—John S. Decker, Stephen Stafford, John S. Hunt, William Ayers, Horace Beebe. Section 34—Benton Bernard, Henry Innes, Henry Chaffee, John Minich, John Hunt, John C. Blanchard, Louis S. Lovell. Section 35—F. Smith, D. C. Hawley, Benton Barnard, Philip Cling, Ezekiel Ferrington. Section 36—F. Smith, D. C. Hawley, Daniel Barker, John Lowry, John Snyder.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

The township of Bloomer was a wilderness until the year 1851. On the town line between Bushnell and Bloomer a man named Francis Beudine had built a shanty, and occupied it some six months previous to that time. He entered the south half of the southwest quarter of section 30, but at the

expiration of that time sold it to Asa Hawley, who was the second settler in the township. Hawley came from Jackson county and remained about two years, when he sold out to Charles Knapp.

In the summer of 1851 Jonathan Cole and Sylvester Pennington settled in the township. The land, which consisted of the southwest quarter of section 19, was entered in the name of Isaac Pennington, while Cole took up the northwest quarter of section 30. Pennington remained in the township a number of years and then went to St. Johns, Clinton county. This quarter was later owned by Harvey Bump, who came to the township in 1854. The land entered by Mr. Cole was later occupied by A. Boyer.

The first to penetrate the heavy beech and maple forests of the interior of Bloomer for the purpose of making a permanent settlement was Anderson Miner.

As has been intimated, this region had long since been visited by land speculators or their agents, and as a consequence, considerable portions of land had already been entered. An abundance of game, which at almost all seasons roamed through the forests or found retreats in its dense and almost impenetrable thickets, had for many years made it the favorite resort of both Indian and white hunters. Among those of the latter race was Asa Hawley, whose favorable reports induced Anderson Miner, in company with his son, Winfield Miner, to visit the southern part of Montcalm county in June, 1851. It is unnecessary to add that they found it even surpassing in beauty and fertility reports theretofore hardly credited.

Mr. Miner accordingly took the description of the northeast quarter of section 28, and with a soldier's land warrant, which he had received from the government as a recognition of his services in the War of 1812, he proceeded to Ionia, where the government land office was then located in charge of Stephen Page and Frederick Hall. He soon received a duplicate of his land, but owing to the great rush of emigration for a number of years, the office at Washington had steadily fallen behind in its work and the patent conveying his land did not reach him until a year and a half after the entry was made.

ARRIVAL OF THE MINER FAMILY.

In the following November, accompanied by his sons, John and Winfield, and their families, Mr. Miner, with three yoke of oxen and as many wagons, set out from their homes in Jackson county for the wilds of Bloomer. The "ups and downs" of that trip can never be described. The wagons, loaded down with the women and children, provisions, household

goods, cooking utensils, farming implements and a blacksmith's outfit; the crossing of streams over which there were no bridges, and the almost impassable roads, made it a journey common enough, perhaps, in those days, but one now known only in story, and realized only by those who participated in it.

In about eight days the little company reached the cabin of Asa Pennington, who kindly offered them its shelter and accommodations. Here, then, it was decided to leave the women and children while the men cleared a road to the farm entered by Mr. Miner, which was situated one mile south of the centre of the township.

To complete a passable road to this place from the house of Mr. Pennington, occupied nearly a month of hard labor. The distance in an air line was only three miles, but the natural obstruction in the way made it necessary to cut the underbrush and timber a long way around at times, in order to avoid them. In this work Mr. Miner and his sons were assisted by Elder Wilsey, who also became a permanent settler of Bloomer. After completing the road, a small log cabin was built, which stood on the land later owned by Martin J. Miner. The cabin was one story, twelve by fourteen feet, and was the first, aside from a hunter's shanty on Fish creek, erected in Bloomer. The orchard is also thought to have been the first in the township. These preliminary steps being taken, Mr. Miner went back to Jackson county, whence he returned with the rest of his family in January, 1862. Mr. Miner remained in Bloomer, one of its most esteemed citizens until his death, which occurred in 1878. His wife, who shared his toil, his hardships and his successes, lived for many years afterward.

Soon after Mr. Miner brought his family another settlement was commenced in the eastern part of Bloomer, the leading members of which were Joseph Roop, Hiram Hunt and William Sherman. These with their families settled on land now in the limits of Carson City, or vicinity. They immediately built cabins and settled down to earnest work, and were among the best citizens of the township. Mr. Roop settled on what is now known as the Goolthite addition to Carson City. He cleared this land and placed it in a good state of cultivation, after which he sold it to Thomas Hoag. His son, Clark Roop, who afterward married Clarinda Hunt, came to the township with him, and also cleared a farm.

Hiram Hunt came from Erie county, New York, and settled near Pewamo, whence he moved to Bloomer, as stated. He settled on the north half of the southwest quarter of section 12. His family at that time con-

sisted of a wife and two children. William Sherman settled the south half of the southeast quarter of section 12, later owned by R. M. Affott.

A VISIT TO CRYSTAL LAKE.

Mr. Hunt once related that at an early day a little company consisting of ten or twelve individuals resolved to visit Crystal lake which had already become somewhat noted. None of these, however, had ever been there, and without knowing its exact location, started early one morning in the direction indicated by a gentleman who had entered a tract of land in the vicinity, and whose glowing description made them still more impatient and desirous to see it. When near the Bloomer and Crystal line the entire company were brought to a sudden halt by one of their number, who, being a little in advance, held up what appeared to be the bones of a human hand. In a few moments, when the amazement gave way somewhat to curiosity, the opinion of a young man from Gratiot county, who represented himself as a physician, was demanded. He turned the immense "hand" over several times, and then with two or three nods and a long breath (in the manner of an experienced physician who has made out a satisfactory diagnosis of his case), handed it back, and as he did so, said, "Yes; that's what it is." "What is it?" came from half the party. "A man's hand," replied the would-be doctor. He asserted with confidence something about which he knew nothing whatever. Then came the search for the body, or any clue to solve the manner and mystery of death. All efforts were unavailing.

The party, which up to this time had been one of extreme merriment and hilarity, became at once the counterpart of a funeral procession and as they passed on their way the moody silence was occasioned not through fear for personal safety, but melancholy theories with which each tried to satisfy his own mind. Some of these were advanced for the good of the rest. "Some one had lost his way, had wandered about until exhausted, had sunk down and had been devoured by bears or wolves, with which the woods were infested." The theory that some one had first been shot by a lurking savage or border ruffian was less credited. But they kept on their way, and when in the vicinity of the lake came to a level space, evidently not long since the camping ground of a large band of Indians. Here after a successful hunt, they had gorged themselves on bear and venison, the bones of which were scattered in every direction. On one side there was a little stack of the bones of bears' feet that would fill an ordinary wagon box, evi-

dently the collection of several years, and upon examination it was found that they corresponded exactly with those found on the way. They concluded, therefore, that they were thrown away by some Indian who had made a repast of tender roast bear's paw.

OTHER PIONEERS.

In the fall of 1853, C. R. Dickinson, a native of Addison county, Vermont, came to Bloomer and purchased the east half of the southeast quarter of section 28, this being part of the entry made by Alden Giddings. Mr. Dickinson subsequently married Hannah Terrell, daughter of H. Terrell, who settled on section 29. Mr. Terrell having collected and prepared material for a commodious log house, was requested by Mrs. Terrell (preparatory to raising the same) to go to Ionia and procure meats for the occasion. The morning before the raising however, he and his sons, Reuben and James, went into the woods not far distant, and in less than an hour each killed a fine deer.

In 1854 Hiram Roop, from Fulton county, Ohio, became a resident of the township. The same year a Mrs. Bishop came to Bloomer and bought the southeast quarter of section 13 and the northeast quarter of section 24. She was a lady of most estimable character and always retained the esteem of those who knew her. In the fall of the same year John and Paul Murray, who afterwards purchased a part of this tract, came to the township; they were from the "Province of Quebec, County of the Two Mountains, Scenery of the Argent Isle, Town of La Chute, Canada."

In May, 1855, H. M. Robinson came in and bought the farm of John Murray. Paul Murray paid for his first cow by felling the timber on five acres of ground, and gathered his first harvest on a sled.

G. W. Palmer, a native of England, settled on a farm in this township on the 19th of May, 1855. This was a part of the tract owned by Mrs. Bishop, as was also the land later owned by J. Barrett and Peter Goolthite. Mr. Palmer also bought forty acres from John M. Gordon, who had entered four hundred acres in this vicinity.

Isaac J. Burt, who also settled in this vicinity, married the daughter of William Sherman. He first settled in the town of North Shade. The land originally settled by Daniel Parker was later occupied by H. F. Blanchard, who opened the first stock of goods in Matherton.

In the meantime, while these settlements were being made in the eastern and southern part of the township, other localities received many additions,

some before and some later, in the person of such men as R. Bogart, C. E. Decker, in the south; Jonathan Boyer, T. Cliffe, J. Grace, A. S. Richardson and C. Smith, in the center; N. L. Otis, A. Boyer, S. T. Richardson, J. Mitchell, C. Fowler and H. H. Fowler, in the west; and C. King, A. R. Isham, P. Long and E. Benton, in the northwest. These immediate localities, and especially in the vicinity of Miner's Corners were hives of industry and activity.

Mr. Miner had opened a blacksmith shop (the first in Bloomer), and often he and his son, Winfield, were pounding away from early morning till late at night. To repair the chains and others implements necessary in clearing and improving a new country is an important item in its welfare.

Schools had been started in the eastern and central parts, and religious meetings were regularly attended, but these were not the only indications of permanent prosperity. A saw-mill was built in the township of Crystal (then a part of Bloomer), from which timber was drawn in considerable quantities, and improvements from this time were more rapid.

There is record of the marriage of James Covell to Miss Fairbanks, which was the first wedding in the township, and also the birth of the first child, Nathan W. Cole, son of Edward Cole, who had settled on the northwest quarter of section 30. The next birth was that of Frances, daughter of Winfield S. Miner.

The first postoffice was kept by A. K. Richardson in a little cabin which stood on the southeast corner of section 21. The mail was carried from Greenville to Ithaca by a man named Godfrey O. Morgan. He was subsequently killed in a dense undergrowth by a hunter who mistook him for a deer. From the list of early settlers should not be omitted the name of George Benjamin, an engincer from Chicago. He was the first supervisor of the township. After two or three days' hard labor he succeeded in felling a large tree (probably the first in his lifetime) and after endeavoring as much longer to convert it into ashes, with hands blistered and clothes torn, he concluded that farming for one's health was a failure, and left the township.

CARSON CITY.

Carson City, Bloomer township, which is situated on sections 12 and 13, on land originally entered in part by Joseph Roop, July 2, 1850, was founded by Thomas Scott and two nephews, John and Thomas LaDue, about 1867. Scott had returned from Carson City, Nevada, in its boom days and gave its name to the village in Montcalm county.

The patent for the land entered by Joseph Roop was granted on May 8, 1851, and covered the west half of the southeast quarter of section 12. Abram Ely entered the east half of the same quarter on December 20, 1851. These lands were later occupied by R. M. Abbott. The east half of the southwest quarter of section 12 was entered on November 2, 1836, and the patent therefore received was dated on November 2, 1837. Robert McClelland's patent for the west half of the same quarter bears the same date. It was entered on November 8, 1836. The northwest quarter of section 13 was entered by James R. Langdon on December 16, 1836, and by Darius C. Larkins on August 13, 1849. The northeast quarter of section 13 was also entered by Joseph Roop and Abram Ely. The former took the west half and the latter the east half.

Carson City was platted on land owned by R. M. Abbott, Delia Miner and H. T. Sherman, October 10, 1866, and recorded on February 28, 1872. The first lot was sold to Thomas Scott and John and Thomas LaDue, as above noted, who under the firm name of Scott & LaDue, built a saw-mill in the fall of 1868. It was the first in the village. They also built a grist-mill about two years afterward. These enterprises gave the village an impetus and the building and business interests in general grew up very rapidly.

This mill built by Scott & LaDue, has had an interesting history. Shortly after Scott's death, William Youngs obtained an interest in the enterprise and E. C. Cummings, now a well-known banker of Carson City, bought out Youngs' interest and operated the mill for a time in partnership with Thomas LaDue. Subsequently, Mr. Cummings bought out Mr. LaDue and he traded the mill to Lorenzo M. Lyon and Luther M. Jones for two farms. Mr. Cummings had made money out of the enterprise. After operating the mill for a number of years, it came into possession of E. D. Lyon, a son of Lorenzo M. Lyon, and George M. Jones, an adopted son of Luther M. Jones. George M. Jones was succeeded in the business by George K. Daniels and the enterprise is now operated by Lyon & Daniels, who have a splendid local trade.

Luther M. Jones died at Carson City, April 28, 1911, at the advanced age of eighty years. Lorenzo M. Lyon and George M. Jones were still living in 1915.

Addison H. Mack, who bought a lot and built a small store building near the grist-mill, opened the first stock of goods in the village. Mr. Mack was soon succeeded by H. P. Miller who opened a good assortment of gen-

eral merchandise. Mr. Miller, who died in the nineties at the age of sixty-five, also had built the Miller House which took the place of Hinds' Tavern. Mr. Miller's daughter and son-in-law operate the house today. In this connection it may be said that the old Laphan hotel, which was operated for many years, was a landmark. The first hotel, however, was built by Hiram and Daniel Hunt, father and son.

The first hardware store was opened by Sullivan E. Felch, in the large building which was known as the Proctor store building, the property of Alonzo Proctor. Augustus Barnum, Elmer Lewis and Anson Davenport were connected with the early business interests of the village.

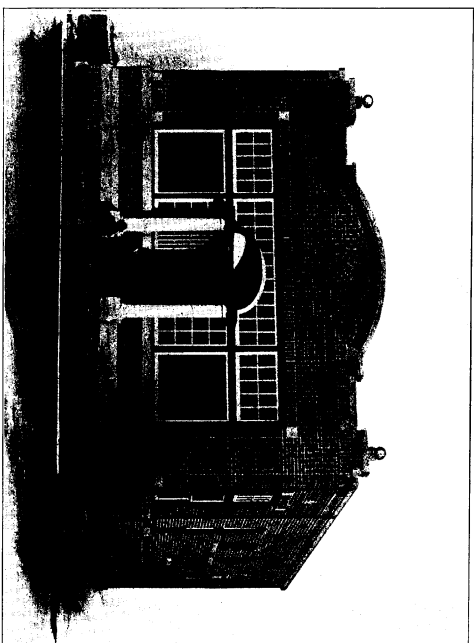
Brower & Howe built up a planing-mill and sash- and blind-factory, which was subsequently owned by Lacy & Acker, in whose possession it was at the time it burned. This was a serious loss to the town. Lacy & Acker also erected a saw-mill which proved a failure and resulted in the dissolution of the partnership. A siding- and shingle-mill was built by John Taft which was subsequently moved to the north of Edmore. In 1878, another sash- and blind-factory was built by H. T. Sherman, which was equipped with machinery and modern appliances. This establishment is now extinct. A steam saw-mill and car factory, which was a valuable addition to the village, was moved to Saginaw. During his life, Hiram Roop operated a large apiary.

BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

Carson City, while not a manufacturing center, has several thriving enterprises at the present time, all of which are duly noted in the chapter on Montcalm county industries. Here, however, it is well to enumerate them. A planing-mill and machine-shop is run by J. T. Waters; a large elevator by the Rockafellow Grain Company; a cheese factory operated by Frank H. Miner; electric light plant operated by the Rockafellow Grain Company, and the flour-mill operated by Lyon & Daniels.

Francis A. Rockafellow, who was the founder of the Rockafellow enterprises in Carson City and who died there on February 23, 1904, at the age of fifty-five, was a prominent man in the life of the village for twenty years or more.

Sheldon H. Caswell, who founded the business in furniture and undertaking now operated by his son, F. S. Caswell, in a magnificent building in the heart of the village, was born in Oneida county, New York, February 15, 1846. He removed to Portland, Michigan, at the age of twenty-one and engaged there in the shoe business. After his store burned, he came to



FARMERS AND MERCHANTS STATE BANK, CARSON CITY.

Carson City in November, 1872, and engaged in moving buildings and selling sewing machines. In 1874, he purchased a furniture and undertaking business and managed this enterprise until 1894 when he removed to Newark, New York. There he remained fourteen years and in 1908 removed to Los Angeles. F. S. Caswell succeeded to the business in June, 1894.

George A. Thayer was in the general mercantile business where the Carson City State Bank now stands. Although he retired a great many years ago, he is still living.

George R. Gibbs, former postmaster of the village, was prior to his term as postmaster a blacksmith and wagon manufacturer. He came to Carson City just before Sheldon H. Caswell. Mr. Gibbs has been retired for many years.

Fletcher Reasoner, who died at Carson City on December 28, 1914, at the age of seventy-two, was in the general mercantile business for many years.

John and Paul Murray, brothers, were prominent in the business life of Carson City for a long time. The former died on July 25, 1888, and the latter, the father of L. W. Murray, present manager of the Rockafellow Grain Company, died on December 14, 1883. John Murray was fifty-eight years old at the time of his death, and his brother, Paul Murray, was forty-nine.

Among the thriving enterprises of Carson City at the present time are The Gittleman Company, I. Krohn, Carson City Produce Company, A. E. Gunther, W. O. Canouts, Brooks & Sons, Patrick J. McKenna, Chester R. Culver and John Brice.

Carson City, which was incorporated in 1887, has an assessed valuation at the present time of approximately \$900,000. Its population is given as 808 by the 1910 census but it is now estimated at nearly 1,100. In 1904, the census gave the population as 891 of whom 419 were males and 472 females. At this time, 832 citizens were native born and fifty-nine foreign born. In 1904 Carson City enumerated 247 children of school age, five to nineteen years, of whom 115 were males and 132 females. Of these children, 243 were native and four foreign born. The character of the population has probably changed very little since that time, 1904 being the last official state census.

COUNTRY TRIBUTARY TO CARSON CITY.

Carson City lies in the center of a rich agricultural country where the land is worth from \$100 to \$150 an acre and where corn, wheat, oats, hay,

beans and sugar beets are raised in abundance. The farmers living in the country adjacent to Carson City and, in fact, in the country tributary to it, are splendid farmers who have gone on from year to year improving the land by every method known to modern agriculture. Bloomer township was a pioneer in road building and as a consequence the farmers enjoy the use of roads second to none in the county. They have always been liberal spirited in the expenditure of money for this purpose. Good roads have made marketing easy and especially the marketing of the products of their dairies which are sold to the cheese factory, operated now by Frank H. Miner, but established by Henry Fitzpatrick. The dairy industry has made not only the village but the country surrounding it, extremely prosperous.

The Carson City Town and Country Improvement Association, organized in February, 1915, succeeded the Carson City Boosters' Club and is well organized for the purpose of improving the village, bringing factories to the community, and keeping the town clean. There is an executive committee for the town section and one for the country section. The former consists of E. B. Stebbins, Ira Cummings, L. W. Murray, E. S. Brooks, Charles H. Adams, F. S. Caswell, William E. Adams, H. E. Cowdin and William Hutting. The latter consists of William T. Hill, T. M. Wilson, Walter Herrick, O. W. Wilson, Martin Grace, Valois Todd, R. W. Brice and M. H. Kipp. The president is Dr. J. P. Taylor; vice-president, E. D. Lyon; secretary, Chester R. Culver, and treasurer, Will L. Wright.

This association advertises that Carson City is "the best and biggest little city in the state, located in the heart of the best agricultural district in the state, in Bloomer, the best township in Montcalm county, and which has an assessed valuation of \$2,013,005." The association also points out that Carson City has a modern brick school house, built in 1891, with a \$15,000 addition, built in 1915; an up-to-date course of study with nine teachers and is on the approved list of the University of Michigan. St. Mary's Academy, built in 1907, has a faculty of five members and a special music department. The town has a Woman's Club of sixty-six members, the usual fraternal societies and a fine theatre seating five hundred people. The village is equipped with electric lights and has its own water system. There are five churches, Methodist, Congressional, Catholic, Baptist and Seventh-Day Adventists. The Carson City State Bank and the Farmers and Merchants State Bank have combined resources of \$556,045.49. Moreover, the village is located advantageously with reference to other points, being twenty-two miles from Greenville, twenty miles from Stanton, twenty-three miles from Alma, twenty miles from Ithaca, twenty-eight miles from St. Johns

and twenty-five miles from Ionia. The *Carson City Gazette*, owned and published by H. E. Cowdin, is an excellent newspaper.

Carson City is located on a division of the Grand Trunk railway, which was built through the village in 1887. At one time a railroad was projected through Carson City running north and south, generally, and called the Marshall & Northern. Although the roadbed was graded for many miles, it was never completed.

Carson City people are very proud of the care with which the cemetery laying to the northwest of the village and consisting of some acres is kept. The cemetery is managed and maintained by the East Bloomer Cemetery Society, organized on February 21, 1867, at the Roop school house. At the first meeting of this society, William S. Everest was elected president and Hiram T. Sherman, clerk. Hiram Hunt was named as treasurer and William Roop as sexton. The society was incorporated in 1867 and, eight years after its charter had expired, was re-incorporated in 1905. The president of the society is Mrs. A. L. Luce, the secretary is F. S. Caswell, and the treasurer, Ira Cummings. The trustees include, besides the officers, Mrs. L. W. Murray, Thomas Gardner, Mrs. J. Tennant, Mrs. Julia F. Chamberlin, Mrs. Emma Sweet and W. L. Wright.

The village of Carson City is what might be called a "Saturday night town." Generally the streets are filled with people at the close of each week's work. Although the streets are not paved, they are well graveled and the sidewalks are built of cement. About ten years ago there was a somewhat protracted controversy over the grading of the main street. The grade was first changed in order to furnish surface drainage to citizens living in the west end of the village but the old grade lines were practically restored after a bitter fight and considerable litigation.

Numerous fires have occurred in Carson City, but by all odds the worst fire occurred on August 29, 1904, about nine o'clock in the morning, when the tank of a gasoline stove used in W. M. Harden's lunch room exploded. Before the alarm could be sounded the whole building was in flames. They spread rapidly and in two hours the business places from P. J. McKenna's store to that of F. A. Wright were in ruins. The total loss amounted to about \$50,000. Since that fire, the whole section of the city has been rebuilt with modern, well-equipped store buildings.

PROMINENT CITIZENS.

Among the prominent citizens of Carson City, who belong to a past generation, several may be mentioned here: Others, still living, will receive

brief mention. Charles H. Morse, who served as state labor commissioner, as a representative in the Legislature from Gratiot county and also as a state senator, was a colonel in the Civil War. He died on March 21, 1914, at the age of seventy-six. Mrs. Morse lives in Carson City.

Charles Dickinson, who was supervisor from Bloomer township for twenty-five years, was a resident of Carson City. His son, Charles Dickinson, is president of the Montcalm county board of supervisors at the present time.

Spencer G. Millard, who for many years was superintendent of the Carson City schools, studied law and was admitted to practice in Ionia county. He later removed to California where he was elected lieutenant-governor and where he was a candidate for United States Senator. He is now deceased.

Eugene D. Straight, although reared in Gratiot county, a short distance from Carson City, taught school at Carson City for five years. Mr. Straight is at present school commissioner of Montcalm county and has held the office for many years.

Robert Montgomery, former register of deeds in Montcalm county, lives at present five miles southwest of Carson City in Bloomer township.

A. L. Bemis, who edited and published the *Gazette* for many years died at Carson City on August 5, 1912, at the age of fifty-four.

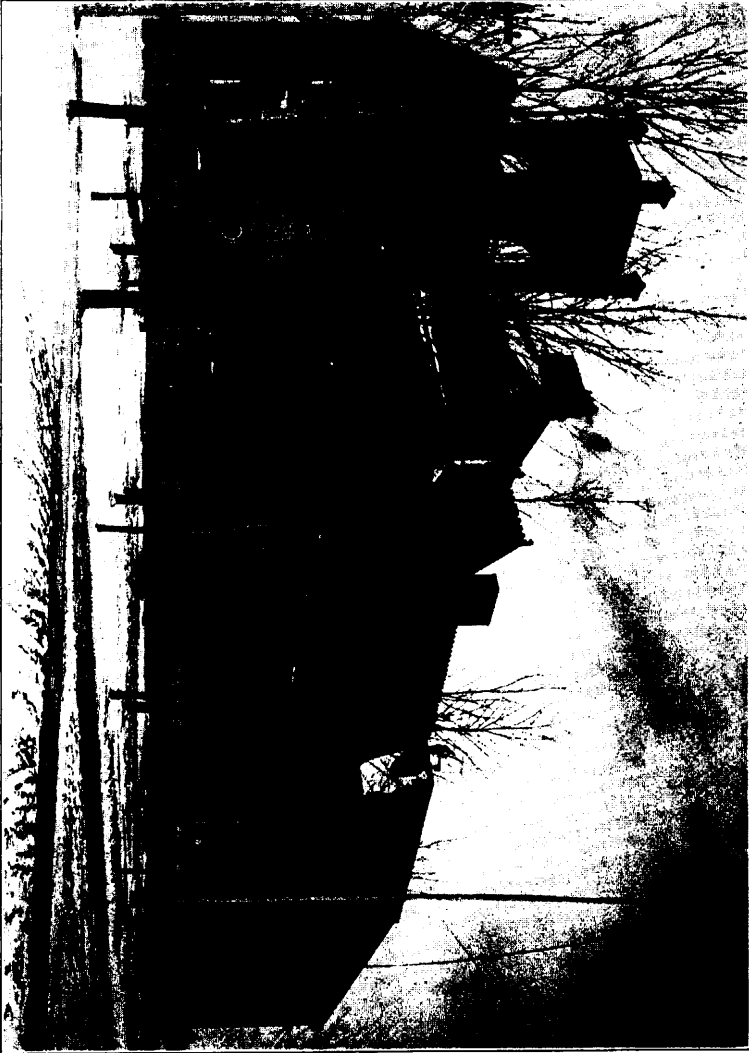
Ophir R. Goodno, who served many years as treasurer of Bloomer township and who was otherwise prominent in local politics, died August 4, 1906, at the age of sixty-five.

William C. Fife, who was repeatedly elected to the office of township treasurer of Bloomer township, died on April 13, 1912, at the age of thirty-three.

The Rev. Peter K. Shutter, who died on December 1, 1901, at the age of seventy-four, served many years as postmaster of the village and was also one of the first ministers of the Baptist church.

The pioneer physicians of Carson City and Bloomer township as well as old-time attorneys, have received mention elsewhere in this volume.

Needless to say, the public affairs of Carson City are well managed: the streets are kept in good repair; the fire department, which consists of two hose carts, a hook and ladder wagon and fifteen hundred feet of hose, is well organized; the village is kept scrupulously clean and the village well attains its claim of being "the best and biggest little city in the state."



NEW HIGH SCHOOL, BUILDING, CARSON CITY.



CARSON CITY OFFICIALS.

The present officials of the city include Edward D. Lyon, president; R. E. Brooks, clerk; Jess R. Combs, treasurer; H. G. Heaton, assessor, and C. H. Adams, Jay Dean, A. C. McCrary, R. H. McDougall, C. F. Wright and C. A. Sweet, trustees. The village attorney is A. B. Goodwin, who is also the present postmaster.

Carson City, as stated heretofore, was incorporated in 1887. The presidents of the village elected since its incorporation and the dates of their election are as follow: John W. Hallet, 1887; Thomas T. Dixon, 1889; Peter K. Shutter, 1890; George A. Thayer, 1891; DeGayler L. Straight, 1892; Thomas T. Dixon, 1893; George W. Caldwell, 1894; Joshua Tennant, 1896; A. Y. Sessions, 1897; William C. Smith, 1899; Thomas T. Dixon, 1900; Vinal B. Luce, 1901; Alfred B. Loomis (appointed to fill vacancy), 1901; Henry G. Heaton, 1902; George W. Cadwell, 1903; C. F. Fowler, 1904; George K. Daniels, 1908; P. Morris Netzorg, 1909; A. B. Goodwin, 1910; Ira Cummings, 1912; E. S. Brooks, 1913; E. D. Lyon, 1915.

The roll of clerks of the village since 1887 follows: Ophir R. Goodno, 1887; Samuel J. Smith, 1889; William J. Shutter, 1890; William J. Loomis, 1893; C. F. E. Luce, 1896; A. B. Goodwin, 1897; L. A. Lyon, 1906; Fred Gunther, Jr., 1908; R. E. Brooks, 1913.

The roll of village treasurers follows: L. A. Lyon, 1887; Samuel J. Smith, 1890; Frank Hale, 1892; S. J. Smith, 1893; Isaac Pitt, 1894; A. Y. Sessions, 1895; William A. Smith, 1897; W. H. Thayer, 1899; George Knickerbocker, 1901; Fred A. Wright, 1902; C. A. Evey, 1904; Frank H. Miner, 1906; F. A. Wright, 1908; P. J. McKenna, 1909; E. S. Brooks, 1911; M. Straight, 1913; J. R. Combs, 1915.

Assessors of Carson City since its incorporation follow: V. B. Luce, 1887; W. A. Sweet, 1890; L. A. Lyon, 1894; H. G. Heaton, 1913.

The trustees of the village since 1887 have been as follows: Thomas I. Dixon, George M. Jones, Frank Rockafellow, Zadock S. Heath, Fred Gunther and Sylvester Stowe, 1887; Lafayette L. Trask, A. C. McCrary and L. M. Jones, 1888; John A. Hogan and Charles A. Sweet, 1889; Nelson W. Daggett, 1890; E. C. Cummings, William C. Hubbard, Joshua Tennant and Eugene L. Hamilton, 1891; John A. Hogan, Frank H. Miner and Emmet H. Brower, 1892; George M. Thomas, George M. Jones and B. W. McVeigh,

1893; Henry P. Miller, Vinal B. Luce and Alfred B. Loomis, 1894; George M. Thomas, George M. Jones and B. W. McVeigh, 1895; Peter S. Hawken, George W. Garner, George H. Lester and W. A. Gardner, 1896; Vinal B. Luce, George M. Jones and Alfred B. Loomis, 1897; George W. Garner, George H. Lester and Peter S. Hawken, 1898; Ruben Clark, Harley G. Garlock and William J. Miner, 1899; J. D. VanSickle, H. G. Sessions, George W. Garner and Uriah Brillhart, 1900; Charles F. Fowler, George M. Jones, John H. Blakeslee and Uriah Brillhart, 1901; George W. Garner, Charles R. Culver, Joseph D. Van Sickle and James Rundeo, 1902; Fred Gunther, Sr., John W. Hallet and Richard C. Cowe, 1903; George K. Daniels, George W. Garner and J. D. VanSickle, 1904; Fred Gunther, Sr., Orrin A. Myers and F. S. Caswell, 1905; John C. Chamberlin, Fred J. Chamberlin, William E. Adams and George Walt, 1906; Dennis S. Sullivan, John B. Schofield and H. G. Heaton, 1907; Edgar S. Brooks, Perry C. Older and William F. Gunther, 1908; George Lowe, Charles R. Culver, J. H. Blakeslee and William E. Adams, 1909; Ray E. Warner, Louis Ligram and Walter Lowe, 1910; George R. Lowe, P. J. McKenna, A. R. Allsopp and Martin Straight, 1911; Walter Lowe, F. S. Caswell and Charles H. Adams, 1912; Fred Snyder, J. R. Combs, A. C. McCrary and M. A. Rice, 1913; R. H. McDougall, Charles H. Adams and C. F. Wright, 1914; A. C. McCrary, J. Dean and C. A. Sweet, 1915.

BUTTERNUT.

There is only one other village in the township of Bloomer. This bears the name of Butternut and is merely a small settlement located just east of Carson City on the Grand Trunk railroad. It has at present a post office with Mrs. L. Greek as postmistress and the only business interests of the town is the butternut cheese factory. This factory does a nice business and is well patronized by the farmers and dairy men in this locality. Butternut has never been platted and is associated with the township in its government.

The present population of Butternut is one hundred and fifty. Libby, McNeil and Libby have a salting station located in Butternut. The Eagle hotel is at present under the management of Mrs. Cowin. Benton & Kerr own and operate the elevator which deals in beans and all kinds of grain. The bank of Butternut does a general banking business. Dr. J. Cowin is the physician of the village and also has a drug store.

The other business firms of the village are: Ray Dehart, grocery; A. Conklin, general merchandise; Deer's hardware and implement store; DeHart's general merchandise; Highbee and Bluemby, stock buyers, buy quite extensively and this is noted for being one of the best stock markets on this branch of the Grand Trunk railroad. Ira Ginther is the village blacksmith.

CHAPTER V.

BUSHNELL TOWNSHIP.

Bushnell was the second township established in Montcalm county and in reality was the first organized in the newly created territory, as Montcalm township had been established five years previous while this territory was still attached to Ionia county. This township was organized by an act of the state Legislature and dates its existence from the same time as that of the county, as the two were created by the same act of March 20, 1850.

The first election in the township was held at the house of Joseph Stevens, "for the purpose of choosing officers of said township," on the 12th of April, 1850. C. W. Olmstead was chosen moderator; James Clock, clerk; Edwin H. Stevens and Jeremiah Mabie, inspector of election. The polls were closed at three o'clock, when it was found that the greatest number of votes cast was twelve, and the following persons were declared elected: Chauncey W. Olmstead, supervisor; William Husker, clerk; Edwin H. Stevens, treasurer; James S. Bacon, Henry A. Allen, Edwin H. Stevens and Chauncey W. Olmstead, justices of the peace; Jeremiah Mabie, James Clock and Joseph Stevens, commissioners of the highways; Chauncey W. Olmstead and William Mulnix, school inspectors; James Clock, William Mulnix and Joseph Stevens, directors of the poor. The meeting then voted that a bounty of one dollar should be paid for every wolf killed in the township, and also that no license for the sale of intoxicating beverages should be granted, after which it adjourned, to meet at the same place the next year.

Bushnell township lies geographically in the southeastern part of the county. It is bounded on the east by Bloomer township, on the south by Ionia county, on the west by Fairplain township and on the north by Evergreen. It is described in the government survey as town 9 north, range 6 west. This township takes its name from a young man by the name of Bushnell who was at that time clerk of the house of Representatives. When first organized Bushnell included townships 9 and 10 north, ranges 5 and 6 west, or what has later constituted the townships of Evergreen, Crystal and Bloomer, but with the formation of these townships it was reduced to its present limits.

Prairie creek receives no tributary from the east, but three small streams flow into it from the west. The southernmost branch is the outlet of Snow lake, near the centre of which is the corner of sections 29, 30, 31, 32. The central branch, which is usually known as Bacon's creek, drains a small pond on the northwest quarter of section 12.

Another small stream in the neighborhood of the old Dean mill unites with a small stream from the north. The stream thus formed flows eastward, and unites with another from Evergreen to form Prairie creek. There are several small bodies of water near this stream. One—Allen's lake, so named from the first settler in the township—is in the southeast quarter of section 23.

Pickerel lake is on the northwest quarter of section 26. It will thus be seen that almost the entire township of Bushnell forms a basin sloping towards the western half of section 26, where the waters are collected and passing through Prairie creek flow into Ionia county. This is a part of the Grand river system.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES.

The following list contains the names of those who purchased from the general government of the state lands situated in this township:

Section 1—Jesse Stump, Benjamin Casey, George S. Griffin, N. D. Hart, Levi Trim, George Bartholomew, Columbia Page, Joseph Hartwick. Section 2—Andrew S. Philips, N. S. Benton, John W. Dunn, L. H. Smith, Caroline Brotherton, Benona Dickinson, Almon Charles, John Arntz, Charles Brown, Thomas Cornell, L. P. Taylor. Section 3—Caleb Mills, John C. Blanchard, James R. Griswold, John Gillett, Zerah Willoughby, D. A. Elliott, Linus W. Vickery, Norman Firmby, Ira Haws, Doctor F. Barnes. Section 4—Caleb Mills, Frederick Hall, Absalom Gillenwater, John C. Blanchard, Cornelius C. Darling, J. Gilfin, Orin Knapp, Austin P. Gallup, George Holland. Section 5—Joel Soule, Samuel C. Kinyon, Tobias C. Haynor, Frederick Hall, Noah Bennett, Austin P. Gallup, Clark Harrington, Erastus P. Brown. Section 6—Nathaniel Foster, Asaph Belcher, Christopher G. Tyler, Levi Brainard, Americus Smith, S. Moore, George L. Week, Fred Hall. Section 7—Whitman Stoddard, Nathaniel Foster, Chancey Beckwith, Edward Soule, Joel Soule, John Wabesis, Joseph P. Powell, Americus Smith, George D. Van Alstine. Section 8—Jerold Bander, J. Howard, Whitman Stoddard, Hezekiah McDaniels, Howland Soule, James L. Jennings, Henry Hull, William Terrington, Jedediah Austin, John C. Dexter, Hannah Burgess, Clarinda Van Keuren, Noah Bennett, Roswell

Nettleton, Orson Cheeny. Section 9—Rufus Wells, Dexter Smith, Maria Pitcher, A. Gillenwater, William Bush, Alexander D. W. Dodge, Royal J. Perkins. Section 10—Mary Hill, John Grinnels, John C. Blanchard. Section 11—William Knox, Andrew L. Phillips, Stephen F. Page, Willard Corser, John C. Blanchard, Albert Kent. Section 12—Joseph Stephens, John G. Eckert, Anthony Hill, Jesse Stump, Joseph L. Clock, William Cooper, Charles A. Umbenhauer, Calvin Lyons, D. F. Barnes. Section 13—Frederick Hall, Joseph Clock, Philander R. Howe, James Clock. Section 14—Isaac Pennington, Alvin Bartholomew, Samuel Rose, Julius Jennings, Stephen Page, Lewis J. Trim. Section 15—Thomas Arthurington, John M. Lamb, Lewis J. Trim, Stephen F. Page, John C. Blanchard. Section 16—P. Hall, E. Hall, William Bisj, John H. Williams, George P. Tyler, James Sharp, Thomas Worthington, William Bush, Charles Lamb, N. S. Wood. Section 17—John C. Snow, Hosea Bennett, Josiah Bennett, Moses Bennett, George Lamb, Orson A. Cheeny, John E. Morrison, Edwin Hall, Caleb M. Wade, Christopher Tyler. Section 18—George R. Lamb, Artemus Gleason, Roswell R. Edwards, John A. Rosback, Chauncey Beckwith, Henry J. Cheeny, Artemus Gleason, Leonard Kirby. Section 19—Albert Deitz, William Adams, Roswell R. Edwards, Edward Decker, Sanford Yeomans, E. M. Cheeny, Caleb M. Wade, James Henderson. Section 20—Albert Deitz, Daniel Kellogg, James Fitch, Moses Bennett, Isaac Randall, Benjamin Hamilton, David Hall. Section 21—James S. Bacon, John Dickerson, John J. Hammell, James Bacon, Mary Bacon. Section 22—Moses T. Bennett, William Husker, Jason Mills, Joseph Gallup, Peter Tucker, Alonzo Curtis, Frederick Sapp, Peter Tucker, Jason Mills. Section 23—Henry A. Allen, Charles S. Smith, James A. Clock, Joseph Gallup, Jr., Alonzo Curtis, Stephen Page, John J. Hammel, Frederick Sapp. Section 24—James Whitaker, Charles Rick, Charles Stevens, Orin Green, William S. Smith, Isaac Philips, L. Griffin. Section 25—Thomas White, Levi Cox, Jeremiah Baringer, William Whitaker. Section 26—Jacob Bargy, Albert Van Vleck, Isaac Herrington, Morris W. Maine, Daniel Heath, Isaac Jason, George Jason, William Castel, Isaac Shurte, D. F. Barnes. Section 27—William H. Weed, Joseph Young, William Castel, Joseph Stevens, Lyman Stevens, S. Dickinson, Chauncy W. Olmsted. Section 28—Solomon Myers, Albert Van Vleck, Franklin Herrick, Christopher G. Tyler, Jeremiah Taylor, John M. Cole, Joseph P. Powell, Gottlieb Haytlauff, Lewis H. Ranson. Section 29—Godfrey Wohlben, Philip Slaght, James Fitch, Olive Hall, William E. Alchin, Louis S. Lovell, Stephen F. Page, David F. Ferguson. Section 30—Alonzo Wood, Mansfield Harrison, E. B. Soule, Covington Blanchard, Stephen

Page. Section 31—Edwin Comstock, Boswell Bennett, Solomon Bacon, John West, Andrew Benedict, John C. Ferguson. Section 32—George W. Stevens, George W. Hewett, Edwin Comstock, William Campbell, Cyrus Gilbert, W. M. Youngs, Richard B. White. Section 33—Thomas Magrath, Philip Shaffer, Jeremiah Mabie, Moses Wells. Section 34—William Devore, William H. Weed, Edwin H. Stevens, Leander Millard, Joseph Stevens, Jeremiah Mabie, Julia Olmstead, Lyman Stevens, L. White. Section 35—John Van Vleck, John B. Welch, Jeremiah Mabie, Peter Van Vleck, Adaline Bolton, John B. White, Joseph B. Miner, Rebecca Schute, D. T. Barnes. Section 36—John B. Welch, Oscar F. Gladding, Aaron Sloan, Thomas Covell, Caroline Sloan, Dennis Cranson, Roderick H. Wood, William Tyler, Sally P. Taylor, Stephen Ackles, Orin Hoisington, William Howarth, Harvey Howarth.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

As near as can now be ascertained, Henry A. Allen, who came to Bushnell and built a small log cabin near the lake on the north half of the southeast quarter of section 23, was the first settler in the township. Of his nativity and life previous to his settlement here, but little is known. He was a man of little energy, and to use the expression of an old settler, "he hunted, fished, and made staves, alternately," and on the whole, lived an easy life. His wife died about the year 1850, and he subsequently sold his farm to John J. Hammel and moved from the township. Mr. Hammel became a resident of the township in the winter of 1851-52, and was elected clerk of the township in 1852. He remained here a number of years, and then moved to the northern part of Michigan.

William Devore was the second settler in the township and the first on the west side of Prairie creek in Bushnell. He remained but a few years. A brother-in-law and wife came to the township soon after but the sisters became very much depressed, and persuaded their husbands to return to New York, which they accordingly did, about the year 1848.

As early as the summer of 1843 a young man named William Weed came to the hospitable cabin of Elder John Van Vleck, in the north part of Ionia county. He was of prepossessing appearance, and his ready conversation soon secured him admission to the hospitalities of this home on the very edge of civilization. The good deacon not only gave him much information in regard to desirable lands but volunteered the following day to show him some choice pieces near at hand. One of these, the west half of the southeast quarter of section 27, was a beautiful plain sloping to the

northeast. It is told even at this late day that this piece was intended by the deacon as an inheritance for some son-in-law whom heretofore he had only seen when his eyes were closed. However this may be, William Weed entered it and then returned to his home at Salem, Washtenaw county. He soon induced his father-in-law, Joseph Stevens, to visit the township, and he being well pleased with that section, purchased this piece of Mr. Weed, and a considerable tract in addition on the north part of section 34. Mr. Weed did not return to Bushnell.

The purchase of Mr. Stevens ultimately resulted in a large settlement in the township, and his relation to the early settlement in connection with a number of others deserves brief mention in these pages. He was born in Connecticut, and after living a number of years in New York came to Ann Arbor (then a settlement of two houses) in 1825. The next year he entered eighty acres of government land in the township of Salem, in Washtenaw county, where he is thought to have been the first resident. He cleared up his farm, built a saw-mill, and resided there until he came to Bushnell to settle upon land already located, as before stated. The party consisted of Joseph Stevens, a wife and four children, and his son-in-law, Edwin Stevens, who located on one hundred and sixty acres on the south half of section 34. Joseph Stevens immediately built a temporary shelter, and then commenced the log house which remained standing for many years. The same day that this house was raised, William Devore raised his log cabin on the farm later occupied by J. Snyder. These were the first cabins raised west of Prairie creek.

Lyman Stevens, who accompanied his father to this county, made his home on section 25. Many of the incidents of those early days remained fresh in his mind, some of which he passed on to the present generation. At one time while driving towards Ionia through a narrow road, and where it was impossible to turn aside, he came suddenly upon a huge bear quietly lying in the road. It arose, looked around, and then started off ahead of him, but it soon sat down, fairly blocking the way. The two women who accompanied him were extremely terrified. He could not turn around, and to advance was perilous. He drove nearer and shouted at the top of his voice, but it only brought growls and a display of teeth from Bruin, who evidently proposed to stay. After a while, however, he moved leisurely on, and the young man succeeded in driving around him, the wheels of the wagon passing within two or three feet of the bear's body.

When Mr. Devore, who has already been spoken of, left the township in 1849, he employed Lyman Stevens to assist in the journey, who when

he returned brought his brother-in-law, Chauncey W. Olmstead, and family. Mr. Olmstead had married Joseph Stevens' eldest daughter, Julia, in Washtenaw county. He at once became a resident of Bushnell, and settled on the east half of the northeast quarter of section 34. Lyman Stevens subsequently married Eunice Bacon, whose parents became settlers in 1849.

FIRST CROPS IN BUSHNELL.

J. S. Bacon was a native of New York state, whence he came to Michigan in May, 1834, and settled in Rollin, Lenawee county, being among the first settlers in that section. He came to Bushnell on May 5, 1849, and bought the east half of section 21, and brought his family, which at this time numbered six, in August following. He left them all at the house of his father-in-law, Joseph Stevens, while he built a log house which he covered with boards brought from the saw-mill on Dickinson creek, in Fairplain township, which was then owned by a Mr. Burrington. He immediately began clearing with a team of horses which he had brought to the township, but soon disposed of them and procured a yoke of oxen. The next spring he sowed a small piece of ground in spring wheat—the first sowed in the township—but it proved a failure. The year previous Joseph Stevens had sowed a field in winter wheat, which was the first in Bushnell, and which yielded a fair crop. Mr. Stevens also set out the first orchard in the township, he having been engaged in the nursery business in Washtenaw county. He brought trees with him and set them out in the spring of 1848, at which time he also planted some spring crops.

The settlement thus far, with the exception of William Mulnix, who came in soon after his brother-in-law, Henry A. Allen, with whom he stopped, had been in the central and southern parts of the township, west of Prairie creek. But the fine lands east of that stream were destined not long to retain their primeval solitude. James Clock and his son, Joseph L. Clock, came to the township, and after looking around selected the eastern half of section 13. The former took the southeast quarter, and the latter the northeast quarter. Joseph Clock's two sons married the daughters of Harley Bump, an early settler of Bloomer.

In the spring of 1850 William Castel, another son-in-law of Joseph Stevens, came to Bushnell. He afterwards went to work in Olmstead's mill, in Evergreen township, where he remained until February, 1851, when he entered the northeast quarter of section 27, and soon after built a log house. Mr. Castel was closely identified with the public interests of the

county, having been elected a member of the board of supervisors many times, and to his exertions while serving in this capacity is the early organization of the townships in the east part of the county mainly due.

A BEAR HUNT.

Shortly after locating in the township James Bacon called at the house of Mr. Castel and as he signified his intention to return home, Mr. Castel took his rifle, and the two walked along together until coming to a piece of timber around which were small clearings. Here they separated and passed around, intending to meet at the opposite end of the wood. Mr. Bacon, who was in a great hurry, wishing to get home with his cattle, which he had set out to find, walked on rapidly. As he passed under a wild cherry tree a peculiar sound attracted his attention, and looking up to the top he saw five bears eating wild cherries. He hallooed to Mr. Castel, but before he came Mr. Bacon had brought one down, shot through the head. Mr. Castel shot another, which was lodged in the forks of the tree. It was now found that they had not enough powder to load another piece, and while Mr. Bacon went to the house for ammunition, Mr. Castel remained to watch. Another bear soon after came down, and while the party by this time collected, assisted by a large dog, pursued it and killed it, the other two escaped from the tree. However, they secured three large bears out of the five.

Many other instances are reported, which, with the reminiscences of the sufferings, hardships and dangers which everywhere surrounded the pioneers of Montcalm county, would fill a volume. Many who came here were poor, with no experience in frontier life and no supplies to sustain them until the first crops could be secured. To go to Ionia to trade, when so fortunate as to have the wherewith to procure the goods, through the terrible roads of those early days, was a hardship not now to be appreciated or understood; but with those who had not the means the struggle was long and severe. Many came with high hopes, but few remained to realize them. Those who went away frequently lost the little they had invested. Others who remained became the most substantial and wealthy citizens of Bushnell in their day.

David Hall, of Herkimer county, New York, came to the south part of Ionia county in 1841. He settled in the township of Ronald in 1846. In 1851 he came to Bushnell and remained here until his death, in 1873. They moved into the log cabin before the fireplace or floor was completed.

It is said that in the fall of 1853 there was but one-half day in two weeks in which there was no raising.

Among the early settlers of Bushnell also were Howland and Joel Soule, brothers, from New York. The former entered the west half of the southwest quarter of section 8, and the east half of the southeast quarter of section 2. Joel Soule entered the south half of the northeast quarter of section 7. They cleared a road nearly the entire distance from their farms to David Hall's, who was at that time their nearest neighbor.

In the year 1863 Dr. R. R. Edwards and Artemus Gleason, with their families, came to Bushnell. The former settled on one hundred and sixty acres on sections 18 and 19. He was the first physician to locate in Bushnell, and one of the first in Montcalm county. Mr. Gleason was a native of New York, and settled near Cleveland, Ohio, 1831. He came to Bushnell, as before stated, in 1853, and settled in the north part of section 18.

AN ENGLISH EMIGRANT.

Richard Low and his wife, to whom he was married in 1826, landed in New York from England, April 21, 1846, and then moved to Lodi, Washtenaw county. He had at this time a large family. At the time of setting out for the New World his youngest child was but four weeks old, and the hardships of the journey to the mother can well be imagined. On the way from Buffalo to Detroit the little one was completely drenched with water by the sailors who were scrubbing the deck above where its mother had for a few moments laid it. It took cold, and after reaching Detroit died. But they could not stop there, and as she wished to bury it somewhere near the home to which she had so long looked forward and for which she had left all, she carried it, closely wrapped in a cloak, for two days; but as they did not then reach their destination, she was prevailed upon to relinquish it and it was then buried in a rude box by the side of the road.

In 1853 his son, William Low, then a young man, was shown some lands near Grand Rapids and also some in Bushnell by Philander Howe. The young man was most pleased with the latter lands and his father subsequently purchased the northwest quarter of section 13 from Mr. Howe, for whom he worked a number of years. They came to their new house in 1856, and later enjoyed the fruits of years of patient labor and waiting. Of this family four sons and one son-in-law served in the Union army in the Rebellion. David Low was instantly killed on the 11th of May, 1864, in the battle of the Wilderness, and Joseph was severely wounded. Another

son narrowly escaped by having his mother's picture, about which twelve large sheets of letter paper were wrapped, in his vest pocket. A large ball pierced through the entire mass and inflicted a slight wound.

Among other settlers of Bushnell were William Bush, the Burnetts, and the Alchinis, in the west part of the township, Thomas Atherton, on section 15, and R. S., J. V., G. W. and E. Comstock, whose father settled on section 32. William Husker, the first town clerk of the township, settled on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 22.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first road, or rather the first opening in the forests resembling a road, led from Palo northward to the saw-mill in Evergreen township, which was owned by Myron Ryder and known as Ryder's mill. It was completed gradually, many different persons contributing to the work. It led past the farms of Joseph Stevens and James Bacon, and was constructed the greater part of the distance through Bushnell township during the year 1849. Soon after a road was underbrushed in the east part of the township, and part of the way on the line between Bushnell and Bloomer.

The first frame building in Bushnell was a barn built by Erastus Brown for Joseph Stevens in 1849. It was completed in the month of August of that year. The first frame dwelling was built for Calvin Crippen, on the southwest quarter of section 25, in 1852. He opened a small stock of goods, but trade was not profitable and the store soon closed. The next frame buildings erected were by Joseph Stevens and James Bacon in 1855.

The first wedding was that of Charles Bacon to Rebecca Stevens. The first birth was that of a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey W. Olmstead, and the death of George Hunt, who was killed by a tree falling upon him while at work on the county line road, was probably the first in the township. He was buried in Fairplain.

The first postoffice was opened at the house of William C. Griffin, about the year 1856, and was retained by him a number of years. About the year 1855, Lora C. Jenks settled in the northeast part of the township and soon after David Husker built a saw-mill at this place, after which Edward Tineby built a store room and opened a small stock of goods. The village of Vickery Corners was platted by John Vickery.

At the time of the settlement of the northwest part of the township several families of Indians, under John Wabasis, resided here. They were a remnant of the numerous bands of Chippewas who formerly inhabited

this section. They were engaged principally in hunting and making maple sugar in the spring of the year, and also carried on a considerable traffic with their birchen- and bead-work with the inhabitants of the early settled districts. In the forest fire in 1857, which raged through Evergreen, one of their number was suffocated and perished in the intense smoke.

In 1853 a man named Stevens in the township attached for debt a rifle belonging to one Osterhouse before Justice Covey of that township. John McKelvy, of North Plains township, Ionia county, appeared for the prosecution and William Castel for the defense. When ready to proceed the bond given for costs was not to be found, and the counsel began at once to accuse each other of stealing it. This was a mistake, however, and the opinion now prevails that the defendant ate it, thus effectually putting an end to the suit for the time being. But Justice Covey said the law must take its course, bond or no bond, and rendered a decision in favor of the plaintiff for seventy-five dollars, which was fifty-nine dollars more than the bill claimed. The rifle was sold at auction and bid in by the plaintiff. Osterhouse, however, disposed of a cow, and with the proceeds, after the lapse of three months, replevined the gun. Again the learned counsel came face to face. The course taken to sustain the suit was that the gun had now been in the possession of said Stevens three months, and that its use was worth twenty-five dollars per month as a means of procuring provisions for the plaintiff's family. The jury returned that the position was "well taken," and that the gun belonged to Osterhouse on those grounds. But the end was not yet. The famous suit was carried on by one person or another until sixteen decisions had been rendered, at a cost of between two and three hundred dollars to the parties. Of the sixteen decisions "one only was according to law." The conclusion finally reached was, "no cause of action."

The first saw-mill in the township was built by G. L. Dean in the fall of 1865, and commenced sawing the following winter.

In 1868 John Hitchcock opened a dry-goods store near this mill, which was purchased the following year by William M. Thomas, who later built a grist-mill in the south part of Evergreen township.

VICKERYVILLE.

Vickeryville is one of the real old towns in the county, but just when the first settlements began are shrouded in mists of forgetfulness. The old part of this town lies in the south-central part of section 1, but when the

Grand Trunk railroad came through this section it ran one-half mile to the south of Vickeryville. In consequence, a new town began to spring up at the location of the depot, which was in the central part of section 12.

The business interests of Vickeryville have always consisted of several stores, a saw-mill, feed-mill, and smaller industries, such as blacksmith shops and repair shops. At present there are some four or five stores in the town, also a grain elevator, which is located opposite the depot. Vickeryville also supports a postoffice, which is the only one in Bushnell township. Although Vickeryville lies half way between Sheridan and Carson City, in a small way it is a rather prosperous trading center.

CHAPTER VI.

CATO TOWNSHIP.

Cato township, as originally laid out, comprised the territory included in towns 11 and 12 north, ranges 7 and 8 west. The petition for the erection of the township, with its first boundaries, was presented to the board of supervisors signed by the following resident freeholders of that territory: Samuel Youngman, David King, E. Smith, Seth Smith, Daniel Gallop, Frank S. Kniffen, James Taylor, C. King, Peter Johnson, J. Aldrich, S. Pearson and Lewis Buckley. The board of supervisors acted upon this petition on January 5, 1857, and the new township was officially created and christened Cato. The first election was ordered at the house of Samuel Youngman on the 6th of April, 1857. The three presiding officers at this meeting were Samuel Youngman, David King and Edward Smith.

Upon the subsequent erection of Pine, Douglass and Belvidere townships, Cato township was reduced to its present limits. In the original petition therefore we find the names of men who did not reside within the present limits of Cato but were settlers in the other three townships. This township is situated upon the northern border of Montcalm county, or that portion of the county which was the northwest corner township as originally formed. For its boundaries it has Mecosta county on the north, Belvidere township on the east, Pine township on the south and Winfield township on the west.

The surface of this township is generally level, and forms the divide between the Flat and Muskegon river systems, the former draining, to a slight extent, the eastern part, and the latter receiving the waters of the western portion through a branch of the Tamarack creek, the outlet of Tamarack lake. These systems prove excellent artificial and natural drainage for the farms in this section. Tamarack lake, which upon the north and west shore, was bordered by a growth of tamarack, hence the name—a variety which also covered several small islands that dotted its surface—is situated principally upon sections 9 and 10, extending also slightly into sections 15 and 16. A belt of lowland extends through the north part of section 32 and runs in a northwesterly direction. It varies from a half to

three-quarters of a mile in width, and is mostly swampy and untillable. Although there was much swamp land in the section at an earlier date, this is gradually being reclaimed with the advent of tiling and the advanced methods of drainage. The northeastern part of the township was originally covered with a heavy growth of pine, but this has been cleared and the land makes excellent farms. The black sandy soil of the south, central and western parts is of exceeding fertility, and is cleared and highly developed by a thrifty and industrious class of people.

THE NAMING OF CATO TOWNSHIP.

Cato township, as previously mentioned and originally laid out, consists of four congressional townships. At the same meeting of the board of supervisors which laid out and organized the township of Cato, also organized three other townships. There was a committee of four appointed in the naming of these townships. Each supervisor in this committee drew for the township which they should name. It fell to the lot of Westbrook B. Divine to draw the township of Cato, and he named it for a township in his native state, New York, which, he said, was like a garden of Eden. Thus the township was christened.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES IN CATO.

Section 1—Allen Macomber. Section 3—A. Woodruff, G. Macomber, A. Macomber, H. Garbutt. Section 4—Harry Stow, Charles H. Rose, Jerome Woodruff, Hannah E. Hartlow, John Haire, Ira Burnham. Section 5—Allen Wright, David Chase. Section 6—Allen Wright, David Gilileo, Samuel Sanborn, Samuel A. Nichols, David Chase. Section 7—George Sanborn, George Main, George Sanborn. Section 8—James H. Somers, John H. French, James A. Bryant, David Chase, Reuben Whitman, John H. French, A. Macomber. Section 9—Edwin French, Reuben Whitman, Lewis E. Smith, Albert S. French, David Chase, Albert French. Section 10—Elijah A. Colland, Warren Kimball, Sarah C. Diamond, A. Macomber, Chester H. Stebbins. Section 12—Lorenzo J. Rider. Section 13—Lorenzo J. Rider. Section 14—Cary R. Hakes. Section 15—Jonas Foster. Section 16—William Williams, Asa N. and Hiram A. Hovey, Abram Shoemaker, Albert S. French, James M. Orcutt, Richard Chaenley, A. S. French, Asa M. Havey, Hiram Hovey. Section 17—Justin R. French, Thomas Rae, William Martin, Stephen Rossman, Thomas Rossman, Thomas Dary,

A. Macomber. Section 18—James Stewart, George Main, James Edgar, Samuel Stewart. Section 19—Charles P. Wilcox, Gardner Mooney, Samuel Kelly, George Macomber, S. C. and E. Hall. Section 20—Thomas Wynkoop, Freeman Rice, Hiram Hull, Fite Rossman, Daniel G. Hopkins, John Smith, John Finnican. Section 21—Ellsworth H. Stryker, Chester King, Conrad Friesch, Daniel Gallup, Freeman Rice, Daniel Gallup, John A. Wandal, Edmund Hall. Section 22—Ellsworth W. Stryker, Seth Smith, Thomas Wynkoop, Edmund Smith, Cornelius Richards, William Bassett, James A. Owen. Section 23—Harriet M. Hakes, Ellsworth Stryker, Jackson Barr, Lord W. Ross, J. D. Brimmes, Edmund Hall. Section 24—Lorenzo J. Rider, Josiah Bailey, Ethan Satterlee, Barr and Spencer. Section 25—John J. Ely, Ethan Satterlee, Barr and Spencer, Edmund Hall. Section 26—Lorenzo J. Rider, Harrison Thornburgh, E. B. Gallea, Sarah C. Diamond, Elias Kent, C. M. Moore, J. B. Ball, Edmund Hall. Section 27—John Turner, Lorenzo J. Rider, Simon J. Vedder, Patrick Nash, Luther Vanbuskirk, Harrison Thornburgh. Section 28—James Taylor, John A. Ford, Henry H. Crapo, Isaac and Elisha Pearl, Philo M. Carpenter, Luther G. Vanbuskirk, Cornelius Richards. Section 29—Samuel Youngman, Otis Irish, J. B. Barr, S. R. Sanford. Section 30—Luther G. Vanbuskirk, Jason Fargo, William N. Rogers, Gardner Flint, Samuel Scudder, Charles H. Bushley, S. C. and E. Hall. Section 31—J. B. Barr. Section 32—John M. Elmendorf, Benjamin Carter, Nelson Crop, Albert French, Leonard H. Randall, Edmund Hall. Section 33—David King, Dennis O'Neil, Henry Crapo, James M. Orcutt. Section 34—David King, Daniel Tucker, Austin H. Butler, Harrison Thornburgh, Emmerilla Butler, James S. Green, Eri S. Smith, J. H. Brimmer. Section 35—Lorenzo J. Rider, Carso Crane, John J. Ely, Benjamin Joy, John W. Fiser, James Mathews, Lydia Mathews, Edmund Hall, Charles W. Butler. Section 36—Jacob Davis, Lorenzo J. Rider, Samuel Peck, Carso Crane, Benjamin Joy, Chauncey Crowell, M. Rider, J. B. Barr, Edmund Hall, Peter Biesch.

SETTLEMENT OF CATO.

The first settler of Cato, as near as can now be determined, was Edmund Smith, from Geauga county, Ohio, a native of Connecticut. After coming to Michigan he stopped for a time near Grand Rapids, but being anxious to get a piece of land he came to Cato in the spring of 1855 and located on the east half of the southwest quarter of section 21. He did not

bring a family at this time, but a mere shanty of logs and boughs for a temporary covering, and then began a small clearing, which, without a team, farming implements or the tools necessary for clearing land, rendered his task in this direction doubly difficult. A small piece at length, however, was prepared and platted to those vegetables which he deemed would be most acceptable the following winter. The yield was abundant. Edmund Smith was a minister of the Disciple church, and officiated at the first funeral in the township, being that of a child which died in the west part some months after his settlement there. He returned to Cedar Springs, where he died in 1873.

In the fall of 1855 his brother, Seth Smith, reached the township with his family, and settled on eighty acres adjoining on the east. He, too, determined to make a home in the wilderness, and under similar disadvantages went to work to make an opening in the forest. Soon the supplies were nearly exhausted, and the wants of his family demanded that he should leave home and seek work. He succeeded in Greenville and at the close of the week converted his entire earnings into provisions, which he carried a distance of eighteen miles to his family.

Some years later, while at work in Greenville, two ministers came to Cato and stopped with Avery Pool, where they remained some time. As there was no building in the township considered of sufficient dimensions and warmth in which to hold public meetings, they called at the unfinished house of Seth Smith. It had a roof on but one side, was not chinked between the logs, nor otherwise completed. But there were boards near by and shingles at a distance in the woods. With the permission of Mrs. Smith they at once began to finish the cabin. It was in the month of December, and to assist in the work Mrs. Smith hauled the shingles from the woods on a hand sled. The work was completed, and the surprise of Mr. Smith, who upon coming home on Saturday night found a cosy cabin with a shingled roof on both sides and the walls chinked and mudded, can be well imagined. The next day being Christmas, the first of a series of meetings was held there. Seventeen evenings the meetings continued, and in the spring of 1859 the first church society in the township was organized.

The next settler in Cato following the Smiths was David King, a young man from Ohio, who, with his wife—also young and with no adequate ideas of pioneer life—settled on the east half of the northeast quarter of section 33. He was well educated and had already made considerable progress in the study of medicine, and may, from the services which he rendered during his short stay here, be considered the pioneer physician of

Carson City Public School

Carson City, Michigan

MONTCALM COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

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Cato. His daughter, born in the early spring of 1855, was the first child born in the township. He exchanged farms with E. B. Gallea and returned to Ohio, where he creditably followed his profession. Mr. Gallea came to the township probably in 1857, and remained until 1876, when he moved to Indiana.

FIRST ORCHARD IN CATO.

In December, 1855, Samuel P. Youngman, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Cato. He had previously been to the township and entered the northeast quarter of section 29, and had built a cabin, into which he moved his family. Mr. Youngman cut his road through the woods from the house of Mr. King—a distance of nearly one and a half miles. He set out the first orchard in the town in the spring of 1856. When he came to Cato first, in the spring of 1855, in company with a man named Robins, he picked up a small quantity of potatoes which had been spilled from a wagon on its way from Greenville to Langston. Upon reaching Cato they found a small Indian clearing. They chopped through the heavy sod and planted the potatoes. In the fall Franklin French, a prominent land dealer of those days, who passed through here, found a fine crop of potatoes. Whether the Indians, of whom there were a number of families in the vicinity, cultivated them is not known.

The heavy maple groves here and the small clearings that abounded had probably been used by them many years—the former in making maple sugar, and the latter probably filled from time immemorial.

By the spring of 1857 these hardwood belts were all more or less occupied, and the settlement of the township may be considered as fairly begun. Abel French had settled on the south shore of Tamarack lake, James Owen near the center of the township on section 28, James Edgar on section 18, Elam Sanborn on section 7.

Mr. Summers, who settled on section 7, was one of the pioneers. He was killed by the limb of a tree falling upon him; the limb had been chopped off by the Indians. His remains were the first interred in the cemetery in Winfield township. He was buried first, however, on his own farm. His was the first death of an adult in Cato.

George Sanborn entered the east half of section 7 in December, 1854, at the time being a resident of Langston, where he and his brother, Elam Sanborn, were employed at the saw-mill. In the spring of 1855 Elam came to this land and built a cabin, which was the second in the township. He also planted some garden vegetables preparatory to the entry of his

brother's family, which came in March, 1856. George Sanborn lived in Cato until 1865, when he removed to Orleans, Ionia county.

Hiram Hull, another pioneer of Cato, and at the same time advanced in years and much afflicted with rheumatism, entered the northwest quarter of section 20. Notwithstanding his physical disabilities, which at times were very severe, with no team or any farming implements, and all the difficulties which surrounded him, he succeeded in making a home for his family and placing his farm in a fair state of cultivation.

KNOT MAUL.

In 1855 James Taylor entered the east half of the northeast quarter of section 28. He resided here a number of years, then moved to Indiana, but subsequently returned to Greenville. Upon his land stood the first cabin used as a school house in district No. 2. He was the first settler at the corners known as Knot Maul.

The next settler here was Ellsworth H. Stryker, who entered the southwest quarter of section 21, also in the fall of 1856. Mr. Stryker was an early and earnest Abolitionist, and for years the favorite and successful candidate for the office of township clerk on the Republican ticket. From an incident in which he was the leading spirit the corners near which he lived received its singular name. During the presidential canvass of 1860, when the several political parties were extolling the virtues of their representatives, and the superiority of the Republican candidate as a rail-splitter was represented in every conceivable way, Ellsworth H. Stryker, with his brothers, Uriah and William, brought from the woods a most singular growth in the form of the body of a tree. The trunk, which at the base was scarcely more than a foot in diameter, about fifteen feet from the ground suddenly enlarged into a huge knot several feet in diameter, above which it again assumed its normal growth, and several feet above branched into limbs. The trunk was severed just above the knot, and the contrast rendered more striking by taking the bark from the handle of what was intended to represent a huge maul. When completed it was placed in the ground at the corners where the roads cross on section 28, and the peculiar sign was at once understood as it was intended—a declaration of principles. The people of the township, heretofore in need of a name for this place, which in the meantime had grown to be of some business importance, began to refer to it, some as the Knot, others as the Maul, and the union of these words probably being the only natural compromise, it was for years known as

Knot Maul. The knot was subsequently chopped down by James Ward and others who represented opposite schools in politics. It was again raised and again hauled down.

In 1863 Charles Wright purchased twelve acres of land of James Taylor and built the public house known as Knot Maul hotel. The accommodations were good, and the house was well patronized until other routes took the travel. Mr. Wright also kept a small stock of dry goods and groceries. The first store, however, was opened by Louisa Frederickson.

The first steam-mill in the township of Cato was built at this place by the Stryker Brothers. They also kept the hotel and a general store in connection.

THE CANAL FROM TAMARACK LAKE.

Early timbering in Cato township is related by one of the pioneers of Lakeview who had intimated an actual experience in the lumber camps of the early days. "The firm of Lee, Oak & Steel owned a very large tract of land in Cato township bordering on Tamarack lake. In the year 1867 and 1868, nine thousand feet of logs were placed in Tamarack lake preparatory to floating them down to Tamarack creek and then south to the mills. The outlet to Tamarack lake is very small and did not carry enough water to float the logs down. Consequently some artificial means had to be employed to carry the logs from Tamarack lake to the main part of the creek. It was about a mile distant. Towards this end a canal was dug, four feet deep and sixteen feet wide from the lake to the creek, and it was intended to sluice the logs down this canal and thus place them on the market, but this project proved a failure. The ground was boggy, marshy, and the fall was insufficient to carry the logs down. Consequently, when the water was turned into this canal it merely filled it up and formed a swamp but didn't prove an agent for transporting the logs. Next a scheme was put in operation to build a flume of planks to sluice the logs through to the creek. Planks were drawn from Kendleville and the work of building this was soon accomplished; but failure again awaited the devisors of this scheme. First, the fall in this instance was so great that the water in passing through it went so rapidly that it did not form great enough depth to carry the logs. Also after a certain amount of water had passed through this flume the lower end of it began to float and was raised to such a position that the entire project was made useless. The logs in the lake were finally drawn out and hauled to Tamarack creek. But the entire project lost the lumber firm a great deal of money."

CLASSES IN THE LUMBER CAMPS.

Generally speaking, there were three classes of men employed and found in the lumber camps of the early days, namely: The rough class, the common class, and the better class. All of the men who followed the lumber camps were rough, free hearted, at times quarrelsome; but on the whole a rather strong following of men. There could also be a classification of the men who came to the different camps for employment. These could be divided into the rough class, the farmer class, and the city class. These different men could be distinguished as soon as they alighted in the camp by their respective actions. Those of the so-called rough class, which may be a misleading term and does not necessarily mean a criminal or vociferous class of men, but those used to this life, rough and rugged; they were men who had made this their life work, knew the ins and outs of the camp life, lived it and would not exchange it for any other vocation or calling. When one of this class came into camp they were very quiet. They said nothing, sat down, put their satchel beside them, but in their experienced way, taking note of the camp followers and the work at hand. They then asked some of the employees for the "push" man. Being shown the foreman, they immediately asked for a job. On an inquiry of the foreman as to what special line of work they could do, they always reverted with the answer that they could do anything he wanted them to do. Then they would ask for their bunk, remained close mouthed all the time, making no brags, but using their ears and eyes. They did not try to push themselves forward and hastily meet the different men of the camp, but bided their time which they knew would soon come. Soon they would fit into the life and be a smooth cog in the running of this machinery.

The farmer class was that class of men who came from agricultural pursuits and only practiced this calling during the winter when nothing was to be gained on the farm. They came into camp, took everything in completely, not in one glance, but gave everything close scrutiny, talking loud, trying to be jocular, and making remarks about the camp. They would keep a running fire of conversation, talking of the country and everything on the farm. When questioned by the foreman as to what they could do, they, too, replied that they could do anything and did not care what it was, but in reality they could do very little. Some of these men proved good camp followers and stayed; others would get homesick in a short time and return to the farm. If this class stayed with the work they soon fitted

in and became part of the machinery of the camp and in a short time could not be distinguished from the older camp followers.

The third and last class which is distinguishable is a city class. They came into camp and wanted to speak to everyone and get acquainted with all the employes in the camp in as short a time as possible. They were very free to talk, tell of their fun and experience in the city and generally let their ego get the best of them. These men were blustery and if given a job very seldom ever made good. This was the class which really did not deserve a place in the lumber camps of those days. They, as a rule, had no good reason for taking up this life. They did not like it and consequently did not profit by it, or the company did not profit by them.

VILLAGE OF LAKEVIEW.

The village of Lakeview occupies the site of an Indian village on the shore of Tamarack lake, in the southwest quarter of section 9. The Indian village referred to, when first visited by white men, consisted of perhaps fifty lodges, and contained a population of several hundred. The wigwams were arranged in two rows, which formed a street, the outlines of which corresponded with those of the main street in the present village. It was the scene of the exciting games of the Indian youth as they strove for tribal popularity. Here also the children engaged in their milder sports, while the elderly members of the tribe smoked their pipes in stolid indifference. It was the scene of public festivities, and here they conducted their ancient and revered ceremonies.

This peculiarity of the Indian disposition—their rigid adherence to ancient customs—is illustrated in the burial of one of their number, a hunter of considerable renown, in the winter of 1855-56. The weather being extremely cold, and several days elapsing before the corpse was removed, it became rigidly frozen. When the appointed time came the dead warrior was bound tightly with bark ropes to the back of a pony and a party numbering at least one hundred proceeded to the Indian cemetery north of Greenville.

The trail led through the forest, underbrush and trees closely bordering it all the way. The almost impossibility of fastening the frozen body to the pony rendered many stops and rearrangements necessary, but Indian custom demanded that it be interred precisely at noon and in order that this custom be observed, great haste was necessary. As they passed rapidly on their way the feet would strike a tree or bush and the head would swing

forward; next the head would come in contact, while now and then, as the way became narrow and both extremities struck, a helping hand was necessary before the journey could be resumed. The warrior's journey to the tomb was doubtless not the smoothest through which he had passed during his earthly career.

In 1858 Albert S. French cut the first tree and built the first dwelling house on the bank of Tamarack lake in what is now the village of Lakeview, and for some years he, with his family, lived in their new home with only wolves and deer for near neighbors and stately trees for churches and schools. But a field so rich in material for industry could not long remain unclaimed, and Allen Macomber, seeing the opportunities, erected a saw-mill and commenced to convert the dense forest into lumber. Meanwhile, Mr. French, having visions of the future, had plotted the land into blocks and lots; gradually a few more families took up the burden of pioneer life in the wilds of the future village.

The first postmaster was Frank French; the mail was brought, once each week, by Mr. Wise on horseback.

Philander Stevens built the first hotel, and as the nearest railroad was then at Ionia and all the freight bound for Big Rapids was transferred by teams by way of Greenville and Lakeview, it was no uncommon occurrence to see upwards of fifteen freight-encumbered vehicles drawn up to Mr. Stevens' place to find comfortable quarters for the night for tired teams and drivers.

Greenville was the nearest place of replenishment, and it being twenty miles distance, imagine the joy of the early citizens, when, in January, 1868, Henry Seaman and L. L. Bissell erected a building on lot 4, block 1, which was to serve as a truly general store and postoffice. About this time a stage line was established between Greenville and what was then known as Big creek, so the mail and possibly a passenger came by stage as it passed the village once each week.

By this time lumbering in this vicinity was carried on quite extensively, and the several camps furnished a brisk trade for the new store. Soon the sharp eye of the home-seeker espied the fertility of the lands in the country surrounding the little town, the little log houses sprang up, the sound of the woodsman's axe "that spared not the tree" and the "whoa Duke and haw Dime" of the plowman was heard on every side, and hand in hand the primitive farm and the wee town advanced until at present the farming country is recognized as one of the most productive agricultural localities in Montcalm county, it being adapted to the successful growth of nearly every crop

that can be raised in Michigan, and this town has become a village, which though not large, has won many words of worthy praise from visitors who admire its broad streets, spacious sidewalks, neat, well-kept homes and places of business.

In July, 1879, the first train came into Lakeview. The road was then known as the Chicago, Saginaw & Canada railroad. With the coming of this train the old stage coach passed, just as has the log house and the tallow candle.

Several times has the fierce monster, fire, threatened to destroy all that energy and application had accomplished, and in August, 1894, practically every business place was wiped out, only heaps of ruins and ashes remained; but nothing daunted, the business men soon replaced the lost by structures much in advance of the old. Thus has the village withstood the many difficulties and drawbacks until at present it is a prosperous little place of about eleven hundred population, having two good hotels, one restaurant, one bakery, three meat markets, eight grocery stores, three dry-goods and clothing stores, two tailor shops, two millinery stores, two jewelers, two bazaars, two book stores, two drug stores, two doctors, two dentists, one veterinary, three furniture stores, three banks, one of the best printing offices in the county, one photograph gallery, two tonsorial parlors, three hardware stores, two agricultural implement establishments, four blacksmith shops, one automobile hospital, two tin shops, two shoe shops, one harness shop, two livery stables, one flour-mill, one saw-mill, one planing-mill, one sash and door factory, one table factory, one electric light plant, two grain elevators, a large potato and general produce market, one pickle salting station, one sugar beet weighing station, one stock yard, two telephone lines, six rural free delivery mail routes from the postoffice, five churches, and last, but not least, the school, which is one of the best in the county, eight teachers being employed. The school has been placed on the accredited lists of four of the foremost colleges in the state.

There are also some nice places for pleasure and amusement about the village. The grove just to the south is an attractive place in summer, where picnics and camp meetings are often held, and the lake is no small factor in making the village pleasant and beautiful. In winter it furnishes sport for the skater and fisherman; in summer for the fisherman and boat lover, besides, the clear blue water is fair to look upon and the pretty islands, one consisting of five acres.

All in all this village is one of which all her citizens may feel proud,

and nothing goes farther to make it such than the harmony of fellowship which abounds.

Lakeview is one of the many commercial centers which are located in different parts of the county. The industries consist of the Michigan Chair and Table Company, which at present is managed by Leroy Stebbins. The Lakeview creamery is managed by Mr. Bettys. J. J. Bale has a lumber and electric plant. W. R. Roach has the vining station at Lakeview. Beans, peas and sweet corn are made ready for commercial use in this plant. Alart & McGuire's salting station is located here. The Lakeview Elevator Company, which is managed by W. T. Coverdale, is one of the largest in this section of the county. Lakeview Milling Company, which is managed by I. W. Finch, also has a great volume of business. W. M. Lentz owns an ice house, which annually stores from five to six thousand tons of ice taken from the lake. Lakeview has an excellent potato market, with four to six buyers. Lakeview has two good banks, two good hotels, and business houses which rank in the foremost of any in the county. During the summer this village is visited by scores of people seeking pleasant summers. The different business and professional men of the village always have the better interests of the town at heart, and are ever striving towards its increase and up-building, in order to establish it among the foremost towns of the county. The present officials are: John J. Bale president; Benjamin F. Butler, clerk; Scott Swarthout, treasurer; John H. Jensen, assessor.

BASS BEACH.

Bass Beach, which is located in the northeastern corner of Cato township, on Town Line lake, was platted on August 1, 1889, for George Whitcomb and wife and a Mr. Bateman.

It evidently was the desire of the proprietors to make this a resort, but so far, their wishes have not materialized.

CHAPTER VII.

CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP.

At the regular session of the board of supervisors, held on March 4, 1856, a petition was presented signed by the following persons: Edward Robinson, George Robinson, William Case, Chauncey Case, John L. Smith, John Vaughan, A. A. Proctor, J. F. Proctor, Enos Drake, George Fox, John White, Judge Stilson, Artemus Taylor, Henry Parker, Eli Davis, Ira Stuart, G. Watt, Barney McGilotay, Charles Howard, D. A. Cornell, John Linkey and James Beck.

This petition was dated on January 15, 1856, and stated that the persons whose names appeared as given above were freeholders of the township of Bloomer and that they desired to have town 10 north, range 5 west, detached from the township of Bloomer and organized into a separate township. They further prayed that the name of this township be fixed by the board of supervisors as Crystal Lake. The petitioners also asked that the house of Eli Davis be appointed as the place for holding the first town meeting; and the judges be Eli Davis, John L. Smith and Henry Parker. The notice for this petition was printed in the *Montcalm Reflector*, which was a weekly newspaper published at Greenville and at that time edited by Milo Blair. The notice of this petition stated that the petitioners asked that the township be given the name of Crystal Lake, but on examining the original petition it is found that they asked that the name of Crystal be applied.

Crystal lies on the eastern side of the county and is bounded on the north by Ferris township, on the east by Gratiot county, on the south by Bloomer township and on the west by Evergreen.

This township was originally covered by forests of beech and maple timber, and after these were cleared of their trees the fertility of the soil was discovered and that fertile belt which lies in the east part of Bushnell township, and comprises the greater part of Bloomer, extends also into Crystal, reaching to and bounded generally by Fish creek, although the timber to the north and east of this creek was of a mixed variety. This tract, which lies in the basin of Fish creek, as was mentioned above, is the most productive and best-tilled part of the township, and comprises the more

wealthy portion of its inhabitants. The township, on the whole, has a great number of good farms and the farming is done on an extensive scale and compares very favorably with any other township in the county.

Fish creek, the largest stream, enters from Evregreen, flows in general in a southerly direction, and enters Bloomer from section 35. It receives a number of small tributaries, the most important of which is the outlet of Mud and Crystal lakes, which are properly a part of a small system extending southeast to Evergreen township. There is a great contrast between these two lakes, as their names indicate. The waters of the one are turbid and filled with floating particles from the muck and decaying mould beneath. Its shores, low and level, are lined for the greater part with sedge and rushes. It is indeed a mud lake. Its name, however, is not more appropriate than that of its fair sister, originally known as Silver lake. But even in an early day, owing to one of those mysterious changes which can be accounted for only by the general consent of all parties, it received the name by which it is now known—namely, Crystal lake. Its waters are clear and beautiful. Its shores, usually firm, in some places rise to elevations of considerable height, covered with oak and pine. A small island, accessible from the shore next to the village of Crystal, furnishes grounds often resorted to by picnic parties and excursionists. Crystal lake covers about eight hundred acres, and is about one and one-half miles in length.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES.

Following are names of those who purchased from the general government and state of Michigan lands situated in their township, showing also the sections upon which they located their purchases:

Section 1—Aaron W. Roby, John D. Trowbridge, Martin Baer, Robert Brown, Joseph Rounds, Philip Krain, Samuel Burtch, John W. Osterhouse. Section 2—Harvey Westfall, Valentine Williams, Samuel Spencer, Benjamin McCloskey, Hiram C. Buck, Henry Parker, Jacob Houseman. Section 3—John White, Edward Hogan, James J. Belden, Darius Bogart, Charles Richardson, Jesse Stewart, Emma Ripley. Section 4—A. L. Soule, George Fox, Elmore Burrows, Henry Burrows, Bartlett Clark, Francis Hawkens. Section 5—Chauncey Stebbins, Thomas Cornell, James Culver, Levi Harrod, Daniel S. West, H. Davis, Andrew J. Tissue. Section 6—Mary and George Edick, Patrick Fox, Levi Harrod, Samuel Kemp, George Gideon. Section 7—James R. Langdon, Patrick M. Fox, Erastus Wilcox. Section 8—James R. Langdon, Mathew H. Fox, John Fowler, Henry

Kemp. Section 9—Michael Lane, E. Drake, Eli Davis, Daniel A. Cornell, James J. Belden, Franklin S. Ferris. Section 10—James R. Langdon, W. S. Coon, Daniel A. Cornell, James J. Belden, Franklin S. Ferris. Section 11—Eli Drushell, John C. Blanchard. Section 12—John F. Gilkey, Myron Kendall, William W. St. Clair, W. Gingery, Joseph Rounds, John C. Blanchard, Bezaleel Lock, J. B. Taylor, William Erey. Section 13—John F. Gilkey, Myron Kendall, Michael Fry, Oliver Cunningham, Floyd Palmer, Joshua Bogart, John C. Blanchard, Barber Dickinson. Section 14—Zimmerman Watts, Solomon Drushell, Peter Snyder, Francis H. Brown, Richard Sinkey. Section 15—James R. Langdon, Joel Parker, Adam Hosteter, Ira Stewart, Ezra Stewart. Section 16—Augusta Bean, Alfred A. Proctor, Joseph F. Proctor, Benjamin F. Proctor, Augusta Proctor, Anson Sherwood, Richard L. Robinson, Henry Morgan, Aaron Brown, Henry F. Brown, John F. Steffey, Samuel Burtch, H. H. Steffey. Section 17—James R. Langdon, John N. Fowler, Peter B. Stiven, Jud Hall. Section 18—James R. Langdon, Daniel Harter, Stephen F. Page, May J. Hill, John N. Fowler, Asa Ward. Section 19—James R. Langdon, Frederick Hall, John N. Fowler, Daniel Hill, Asa Ward, Hiram Bowen, Thomas S. Pew. Section 20—James R. Langdon, Jonas Ashley, William R. Page. Section 21—James R. Langdon. Section 22—James R. Langdon, Jesse Tenney, Solomon Drushell, John C. Blanchard, Frederick Hall, Warren Sherwood, Francis Brown, Peter Burke, B. F. Fuller. Section 23—John M. Gordon, Sally M. Cornell, Simon D. Defuy, Martin Eckart, Joseph Kneer, John A. Stout, V. E. Casper, V. B. Luce, Emma A. Ripley. Section 24—John M. Gordon, F. Smith, Zadock Heath, John McIlwain, David Tryon, J. B. Taylor, William Erey. Section 25—S. L. Stone, Sylvester Bronson, F. Smith, David Alverson, G. Wilmarth, John C. Blanchard. Section 26—John M. Gordon, James L. Shinabarger, Jesse Tenny. Section 27—James R. Langdon, John M. Gordon, Harvey Westfall, Isaac Morse, William Hatfield, Jacob Huffman. Section 28—Don C. Hawley, David B. Webster, Sally Fish, Lucius B. Irish, Harvey Westfall, F. Hall, James Kennedy. Section 29—James R. Langdon, Harvey Westfall, Fred Hall, Stephen Page, Jonas Ashley, William S. Goff, Harvey W. Rice. Section 30—Harvey W. Rice, Alonzo Rice, William Goff, W. R. Page, Warren Brown, William Case, John Vaughn, John L. Smith, Chauncey Case, John N. Fowler, David Hill. Section 31—Abel C. Ross, T. R. Butler, Thomas Coulson, John Bancroft, Parmenio Long, Edward Murray, John N. Fowler, George Bogart, John Bancroft. Section 32—James Forman, Edward and George Robinson, Joseph Green, Abel Ross, Jonas Ashley. Section 33—James L. Glenn, Daniel

Falk, Henry Gettman, Dennis Wolverton, Thomas H. Arnold, Jonas Ashley, Richard Sinkey, David Hoffman, Hannah Slanker. Section 34—Clifford S. Phillips, M. W. Alvord, Jesse M. Beck, William Hatfield, Philander Wood, John Sinkey, Thomas S. Pew. Section 35—W. H. Smith, Sylvester Bronson, Langdon Bentley, James L. Shinalbarger, D. Alverson. Section 36—Epaphroditus Ransom, William H. Smith, S. L. Sone, Sylvester Bronson, James R. Langdon, Thomas Hubbard, Jr., John C. Blanchard.

SETTLEMENT OF CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP.

In the month of June, 1852, John Smith and his brother, Humphrey, came to Montcalm county in the employment of A. Rust & Company, who at the time were engaged in the lumber trade in Marine City, and for whom they were looking up pine lands. The brothers traveled through the eastern part of Montcalm county, and coming to the shore of Crystal lake, were delighted with the beautiful sheet of water, and camped and remained here from Saturday until the following Monday.

This journey led John W. Smith to return and take up his permanent abode in the township the following year. His life previous to this time had been somewhat checkered. He was born in Onondaga county, New York, whence he came to Michigan in 1840. He stopped in the town of Superior, Lenawee county five years, and then moved to Grand Rapids. The first time he visited Jackson it consisted of but one house. Grand Rapids had one frame house completed and two in the course of construction on the east side of the river, and on the opposite side the Indians, who were afterwards removed under their missionary to Prairieville, in Barry county, had a little village, built for them by the government. Mr. Smith remained but two years in Grand Rapids, and then moved to Easton, Ionia county, where he subsequently married the widow of George Case, who had settled there in 1834. Mr. Case had already begun to lay out a village on his land bordering Grand river, when in endeavoring to ford the river to go to Grand Rapids, he was drowned. Mr. Smith remained in Easton until he came to Crystal, as before stated, in 1853. He built a log house on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 28. This was the first house in the township.

About the same time George and Edwin Robinson, brothers, came in and built a cabin on the southwest quarter of section 32. It is asserted that these young men, not being accustomed to the howling of wolves and the other accompaniments of frontier life, made neither door nor window

in their cabin, but covered the roof partly with shakes, leaving an opening in one end which served as both, and through which they passed by means of a ladder.

During the spring of 1853 John W. Smith cleared up about an acre of land and planted it to potatoes and other small crops. All but the potatoes were a failure, these yielding one hundred bushels, which, considering the ground planted and their importance the following winter, was a valuable crop. On the 27th of September his wife and her three sons came to the township. The sons were young men, and each located eighty acres of land, side by side, on section 29. Mrs. Smith was the first resident white woman in the township of Crystal.

Chauncey Case settled upon the east half of the northwest quarter, and on adjoining farms west his brothers, William and James, settled. This first land was entered in exchange for the farm settled by George Case, in Ionia county.

Late in the fall of 1853 the family of John Bancroft and a man named Colton came to the township. They entered three forty-acre lots on section 31. Colton remained but a short time, and then returned with his family to Jackson county. John Bancroft remained until his death. Robert Bancroft, who was born in January, 1855, was the first white male child born in the township. The same day a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Judge Stillson, which was the first girl born in the township.

Judge Stillson and James Beck had reached the township in the early spring of 1854. Stillson settled on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 23, but he subsequently returned with his family to Jackson county. James Beck entered the southeast quarter of section 34, by means of a land warrant received by his father for services in the Mexican War. He divided the land with his sister, who was the wife of William Swarthout, and who remained in the township but one year, and then returned to Jackson county. Mr. Stillson and Mr. Beck together built a temporary shelter on the latter's farm into which the two families moved until Mr. Stillson's house, which was the second in the township, was completed.

George Fox and his son-in-law, John White, arrived in 1855. The former entered the south half of the southeast quarter of section 4 and the north half of the southeast quarter of the same section. He died in the village of Crystal in 1879. John White took up corresponding parts of section 3.

Hiram C. Stewart, a native of New York, but a resident of the southern part of Michigan for a number of years, came to Crystal in the fall of 1855

and completed a log house commenced by Chauncey Case, into which he moved and lived until he could build one for himself. He was the first town clerk of Crystal, and held the office until his death, which occurred in 1859. He purchased a farm on section 28 from a Mrs. Bunnell, of Lyons. Mr. Stewart had a wife and seven children, John Sinkey was one of the first settlers in the south part of the township. H. L. Parker, later a resident of Roscommon county, was among the first to settle in the northeast part.

John Burke, from Wayne county, Michigan, to which place his parents moved in 1826, and where he lived until his twenty-seventh year, came to Crystal in July, 1856, and bought the northeast quarter of section 34, of W. C. Oliver, of Ronald. He was accompanied by his parents, who lived with him until their death. The tract upon which he settled was entirely new and without any improvements, and in order to reach the land he was obliged to make a road from the center of Bloomer, about three miles distant, there being at this time only a trail leading north from this place.

Barber Dickinson was among the early settlers in the northeast part. He was born in New York, whence he came to Eaton county, Michigan, in 1853, and afterwards lived successively in Bushnell and Bloomer, coming to Crystal in 1856. He entered forty acres of government land and continued to reside in the township until his death which occurred in 1869.

INCIDENTS.

In 1854 the people of Crystal made preparations to celebrate the Fourth of July, and at the appointed time assembled with baskets filled more with substantials than with delicacies, and crossed over to the island in Crystal lake in an Indian's skiff. The fame of this lake had already been carried far by hunters and land seekers, and the people of Bloomer not infrequently visited it for pleasure. Upon this occasion two men equipped to fish entered a boat, and upon nearing the island were hailed and invited to share the hospitalities of the occasion. Upon landing, Asa Ward, of Bloomer, one of the men, introduced his companion as Elder William Evarts. The people thought it in keeping with the occasion to dedicate the beautiful island by an oration, and Elder Evarts was prevailed upon to mount a platform of sticks and bark and speak, which he did to the satisfaction of the entire company. Mr. Ward soon after became a resident of Crystal, and at the time of his death was treasurer of the township.

The oration of Elder Evarts on the Fourth of July led to the first

religious meeting in the township, which was held at the house of John Smith in September following. Mrs. Smith invited Mr. Evarts to come and hold meetings there whenever convenient, but being at the time a resident of Bloomer and engaged in farming, the distance, the almost impassable condition of the roads at certain times, and other duties prevented him making any permanent arrangements at Crystal, although he conducted services there several times subsequently. The next year Peter Burke, a member of the United Brethren church, preached in the same place.

The first frame building in the township was a small barn built by John W. Smith in the fall of 1854. His house was among the first frame structures in the township.

On Christmas eve of 1856 the first wedding in Crystal was celebrated, the contracting parties being Henry L. Parker and Sarah Jane Davis. Justice Smith performed the ceremony. Henry Parker had come to the township in 1853 and devoted much of his time to hunting. His skill with the rifle was proverbial, and by means of it supplied the little settlement with venison. Once, in company with another hunter on the shore of a small lake between Crystal and Evergreen townships, he made an extraordinary shot and killed a loon far out in the water. From this incident the lake known as Loon lake took its name. He pre-empted land in the south part of the township, but sold subsequently and removed to Isabelle county. Eli Davis, father of the bride, settled on section 9 in 1854.

The night of the wedding the ground was covered deep with snow, and the roads being passable, several sled loads from Ionia came to the ball which lasted until the "wee sma" hours. The justice and his wife came on a sled made of planks and drawn by a yoke of oxen. Music for the occasion was furnished by A. A. Proctor and his brother, F. J. Proctor, who had previously settled on section 16. The large log house just built by Mr. Davis had not yet been partitioned, and furnished a good room for the ball, which was one long remembered. The Proctor boys opened the first blacksmith shop in the township.

The first death was that of Eli Davis. He was buried near his house on section 16, but his remains have since been removed. The funeral sermon was preached by Peter Schlappie, of Ferris. At the town meeting of 1857 it was decided to raise twenty-five dollars for the purpose of buying or leasing suitable grounds for burial purposes, these grounds not to exceed four acres in extent; and the town board was authorized to select and pay for the same. The committee selected four cemeteries, but only two were

put in use, and at the town meeting held at the house of A. A. Proctor the work of clearing the one on section 18 was given to Asa Ward, and the other, on section 30, was left to William B. Gambie. These were bought and put in order at a cost of fifteen dollars each.

At the time of the settlement of Crystal, Hubbardston was the nearest postoffice. On July 4, 1857, Alanson Snow, after whom Snow's Corners, in Ronald township, Ionia county, was named, took the contract for carrying the mail from Ionia to a station in Isabella county then known as New Albany, and later called Salt River. He followed this route nearly four years, most of which time he carried the mail himself, but was occasionally relieved by his son, Richard Snow. The trip was made on foot, the impassability of the roads rendering it impossible to use a horse. He left Ionia with the mail Tuesday afternoon and reached Snow's Corners the same night. He took dinner with John W. Smith on Wednesday, and finished the trip to New Albany and returned home by the next Saturday.

The first postoffice in the township was kept by A. A. Proctor in his house. When Mr. Proctor removed it was kept by his brother, Fernando Proctor.

CRYSTAL VILLAGE.

The village of Crystal is situated near the east shore of the lake. The first settlement in this vicinity was made by Enos P. Drake who in the year 1857 built a small dwelling house and saw-mill, the latter on the outlet of Mud lake. Drake built the first mill. The first framed building was the Eagle hotel. The village was laid out by Asa Ward on land owned by Mr. Burtch and Mr. Drake.

Beautifully situated in the northeastern part of Montcalm county in a very picturesque valley is a lake called by the people in that part of Michigan, Crystal lake. As the name implies, the lake is like a crystal, and as the sun shines on its pretty waters it acts more as a mirror. On the southeast shores of this body of water, which is considered small in comparison with some of the lakes of which Michigan boasts, although it covers about 1,000 acres, is the village of Crystal, the seat of a thriving, hustling, agricultural section.

Crystal has about 500 inhabitants, possesses practically everything a city of ten times its size has, but it is not incorporated and progresses famously with the administration of its affairs by some real live boosters of which a much larger community might well be proud. Farming and the summer resort is what makes the village, and those who call **Crystal their**

home are ever alert to take advantage of any opportunity which presents itself to further civic interest.

Since Crystal was founded on April 1, 1868, there have been at least a dozen surveys into the village by various steam and electric roads, and each time just when the fond hopes seem about to be realized, negotiations are declared off. The townspeople do not sit down and wait, praying for another survey, but with renewed vigor direct their efforts to make the village a magnet that will eventually attract some promoters to come through there with the necessary railroad to the larger state cities. Just at the present time a survey is being made, possibly the thirteenth, maybe the fifteenth, but the fact remains one is going through now and within a very short time it is believed that the road will be constructed.

To the visitor it seems a wonder that someone has not as yet awakened to the possibilities of developing that rich agricultural district in and around Crystal. True there is a road at Butternut, five and a half miles away, but this makes it more difficult for the farmers and villagers to market their products and secure their shipments. The automobile is meeting the long felt want in some respects as the hotel in Crystal, and it boasts of three, which provide auto bus service to and from Butternut by all trains and to Vestaburg by appointment, so the village is not so isolated as one might suppose. Then, too, prosperity has smiled upon the townspeople and the farmers, so many have automobiles for pleasure and business. Travel is not difficult over the country roads; a liberal supply of gravel has made the highways excellent.

To get to the story of the village proper, Crystal is not incorporated, the citizens enjoying the freedom of their own government, and meeting en masse when the occasion arises for whatever seems the betterment of affairs. For the guest Crystal has three hotels, the Park, on a bluff overlooking the lake; the Lakeside, only a stone's throw from the shore line, and the Shaffer House, on Lake street. The latter is open the year around, but the two former close with the resort season some time in September.

Naturally in a place of this class, banking takes a prominent part, the State Bank of Crystal recently occupying its new home on Main street, serves the community well. It began as a private institution under the management of honest and capable officials, and has recently been incorporated a state institution.

The postmaster, J. M. Lascelle, under recent legislation enacted by Congress, holds his position on a life tenure. No political changes can retire him. Rural free delivery routes supply the rural communities with mail.

The necessity of walks a few years ago was the bone of contention among the villagers and at a mass meeting it was decided to construct cement walks, and now Crystal has two miles of cement walks, an excellent showing for a village of half a thousand people.

There are many forms of business enterprises in Crystal, and each offers a complete stock in the particular branch it represents. There are three groceries, one drug store, one jewelry store, two hardware stores, a bazaar, garage, photo studio, confectionery, two blacksmith shops, wagon shop, flour and two feed mills, cheese factory, electric light plant, telephone company, a live weekly paper—the *Crystal Mail*, published by C. W. La Du, ex-state oil inspector.

Educationally the people of Crystal have not overlooked the welfare of their children. There is a full twelfth grade school, a diploma from which admits to the smaller colleges of the state. Crystal has four churches, the Congregational, Baptist, Methodist and United Brethren. Fraternally, one can find as much of a diversity as in the religious field. There is a Masonic lodge, and a chapter of the Eastern Star, the Farmers' Grange, Gleaners, Odd Fellows and Rebekahs and Maccabees.

A booster of the village is Otis A. Sanford, and it was mainly through him that many of the improvements of the village were brought to a successful culmination. Mr. Sanford is too modest to take any credit for the work, and when asked who it was who put through the many improvements, he says "the boosters of Crystal." But Mr. Sanford has many friends in the village who are willing to give him the credit deserved. Mr. Sanford organized the Crystal Telephone Company, with a capital stock of \$2,500. It serves nearly two hundred subscribers. Work is now going on to increase this number, and the Crystal boosters who have secured the right to connect with the Valley Home Telephone Company for state service are not going to quit until they have secured the same privileges with the Michigan State Telephone Company.

One great asset which the village has is the self-sustained lighting plant. Crystal has twenty-four-hour electric service. The plant is operated with steam power, is not surpassed in the state, and as far as can be ascertained, in the United States. Where water power is used the case is different, but at Crystal generators are operated with steam. At ten o'clock at night the power is furnished with storage batteries, and they are also used after the plant closes Saturday night and until it opens Monday morning.

Leaving the main street of Crystal and turning on to Lake street it is but a short distance down the side of the hill before one has a glimpse of the

lake. It is a pretty body of water, fed from springs which are distributed all around the lake bed. The lake has a sandy bottom, affording delightful bathing. One may wade a great distance before reaching a depth greater than six feet. The lake is comparatively shallow, but there is one place about three-fourths of a mile from the resort where they never have been able to locate bottom. This may be just a myth, but you will have to take it for what it is worth.

On the southeast and northeast shores of the lake are very fine summer cottages, nothing special but very cozy, providing the usual comforts of a summer resort. On the southeast shore many of the cottages are owned by people who occupy their own during the warm months. On the northeast shore is a group of cottages, possibly two hundred, known as Crystal Heights. It is an association and has been incorporated. The Park hotel is situated among the cottages at the end of Lake street near the lake shore. At the end of Lake street, near the lake shore, there are a number of pavilions. Some are operated by residents of Crystal, while others are leased to parties who have made their summer homes in Crystal for the past fifteen to twenty years.

BUSINESS MEN OF CRYSTAL.

B. F. Smith, proprietor Lakeside hotel; O. A. Sanford, manager Mair Street garage; W. Y. Beard, proprietor Park hotel; Bert Silver, manager Silver Family theater; Edward Noltz, boat livery; R. H. Radcliff, ice cream pavilion; Peterman Brothers, proprietors bathing beach; B. F. Shaffer, proprietor Shaffer hotel; F. T. Kimball, general merchandise; C. DeYoung, hardware and supplies; Z. D. Rule, dry goods and groceries; J. D. Smith, pure drugs and chemicals; Sturgis & Son, meats and general merchandise; George Holcomb, manager Crystal Cheese Company; William S. George, manager Crystal Telephone Company; R. B. Smith, physician and surgeon; Blackaller & Bennett, opera company; Orcutt & Son, general hardware; E. H. Marcy, furniture and funeral director; W. J. Reed, boats and cottages; Frank Morgan, barber shop; V. C. Canouts, jeweler; E. A. Durkee, Lakeside Park; Oscar Shives, well drilling and repairing; J. M. Lascelle, postmaster, insurance; Bank of Crystal, general banking business; Lee Terwilliger, blacksmithing and repairing; L. H. Gearhart, cement blocks and tile; J. C. Sigsbee, carriage painting and repairing; J. S. Parker, blacksmithing and repairing; C. W. LaDu, editor *Crystal Mail*; H. S. Preston, photographer; Charles Woodbury, cottages and boats; Carl Benthine, ice and drayage; Thomas Young, proprietor opera house; Louis Steele, variety store.

CHAPTER VIII.

DAY TOWNSHIP.

Day township is located in the central part of the county and is designated on the government survey as town 11 north, range 6 west. It is bounded on the north by Home township, on the east by Ferris, on the south by Evergreen and on the west by Douglass.

The erection of this township, which comprises congressional township 11 north, range 6 west, was brought about through the presentation of a petition signed by the following: Alonzo Darling, H. E. W. Palmer, Samuel Butts, Fared Strong, Jr., R. Rawson, D. S. West, Sebastian Martin, Win Armstrong, Conrad Rough, J. J. Mounton, Alexander Oneal, Henry Kretzinger, Egbert L. Heath, Christopher Hare, David Buck, John S. Ford, Albert Ferris, Wibber E. Roby, John M. Hancock, Isaac Tillne, E. B. Hare, Andrew Zuner, J. G. Garrison and David Shaffer. This petition was passed upon by the board of supervisors, and the township was duly created on October 12, 1864. The first election was held at the house of Henry Kretzinger on the first Monday in April, 1865, and H. E. W. Palmer, John A. Dyer and Jared Strong acted as election judges.

The name for this township was selected by a mere accident. While a number of its citizens were debating on the question of a name and unable to select one from the many proposed, some one suggested that action in regard to it be postponed until another day. It was then proposed that all the other names be dropped and the name "Day" inserted in the petition, which was accordingly done. The first meeting was held in compliance with the appointment made by the board of supervisors. The meeting was called to order by H. E. W. Palmer, one of the inspectors appointed by the board. The other two inspectors chosen by the board were absent, and George F. Case and John D. Herrington were appointed by the electors present to fill their vacancy. George F. Case was chosen chairman, and H. E. W. Palmer was chosen clerk. The following persons were elected to offices in the township: Supervisor, Sylvester Derby; clerk, Edwin K. Wood; H. E. W. Palmer, treasurer; G. F. Case and H. E. W. Palmer, school inspectors; John D. Herrington, John K. Marston and Henry Kretzinger, commissioners of high-

ways; George F. Case, John D. Herrington, Samuel Butts and Albert Register, justices of the peace; Aaron F. Lee, Phipps Waldo, H. E. W. Palmer and John J. Owen, constables.

LAND ENTRIES.

Section 1—Byron G. Stout, William Green, Freeman Rice, Byron Stout. Section 2—Samuel S. Woodworth, James Cisco, Gamaliel Waldo, Phipps Waldo, William S. Post. Section 3—Elias Hardy, James Eakright, John Rash, Aaron Grash. Section 4—John J. Mountain, Henry Kretzinger. Section 6—Julia A. Clark, Sebastian Martin, Alpheus Brown, Jared Strong, Jr., Luther Hardy, Stephen F. Page, Edmund Hall. Section 7—William and Cornelius Van Name, Jacob Lemasters, William P. Baker, James Knox, Conrad Roosh, John J. Owen, Erastus P. Brown, Alonzo Darling. Section 8—Jacob Lemasters, James Knox, Alonzo Darling, Frederick Hayland, David H. Thomas, Norman Webber, A. Darling. Section 9—David Jacobs, Frederick Hayland, Daniel S. Simes, Peter H. Watson. Section 10—L. B. Townsend, Peter H. Watson, Sylvester Parsons, William H. Stanfield. Section 11—John G. Williams, Thomas P. Bennett, Peter H. Watson, Gamaliel Waldo, Oliver Rutherford, Benjamin P. Boskin. Section 12—John A. Dyer, John G. Williams, Albert E. Regista, Moses A. Dyer, Solomon Rash, Russel E. Dyer, Henry O. Corroll. Section 13—Alexander Fraser, Clarkson S. Hance, John W. Tate, Cyrus Rutherford. Section 14—Moses C. Grey, Peter H. Watsen, George Sapp, Peter Seyo, William Knott, Cyrus Rutherford, Amos S. Pennington, E. K. Wood. Section 15—William Beaty, William Waldo, Alexander Fraser, George O. Taylor, Henry G. Johnson. Section 16—Marcellus Palmer, Andrew B. Nevins, Norman Webber, Oscar R. Wilmarth, Marcellus Palmer, H. H. Belding. Section 17—William Cornell, Henry M. Tupper, Mary S. Palmer, P. R. Howe, George Isham, Sylvanus Taylor, Hampton Rich, A. S. Johnson. Section 18—Charles B. Wilsen. Section 19—Charles B. Wilsen, William and Cornelius Van Name, Stephen McNeil, William J. Cornell, Benedict Brooks, Steven Shephard, Josiah J. Morris, John D. Harrington, William Armstrong, Edwin B. Moore. Section 20—William J. Cornell, Hugh T. Brooks, James M. Soverhill, Cornelius Van Allen, P. R. Howe, George B. Isham, N. Webber, D. Chase, Hampton Rich. Section 21—William J. Cornell, William Beaty, Larmon B. Townsend, Cornelius Van Allen. Section 22—William Beaty, Thomas J. Bargar, William Beaty, Alexander Fraser. Section 23—Thomas J. Bargar, Larmon B. Townsend, Daniel Buckley, David Stewart. Section 24—

Wilsen Lee, William P. Partello, John Barrett, Edwin A. Moffatt, Josephus Dasef. Section 25—Charles B. Wilsen, Henry H. Crapo. Section 26—L. M. Bennett, Albert Cisco, Smith Felton. Section 27—Larmon B. Townsend. Section 28—Larmon B. Townsend, Samuel Mead, Edwin D. Finch, Samuel Lett. Section 29—Hugh T. Brooks, Benedict Brooks, Larmon B. Townsend, Charles A. Brown. Section 30—William J. Cornell, Benedict Brooks, Michael Mead, William Dunham, Larmon B. Townsend, Isaiah J. Morris. Section 31—Evrard H. King, Michael Mead, William L. Tanner, Michael Mead. Section 32—John Waite, Frederick Hall. Section 33—Ambrose L. Soule, Larmon B. Townsend, Alexander Fraser, Stephen F. Shortep, Samuel Mead. Section 34—Ambrose L. Soule, Henry H. Crapo, Jacob Wagner, Alexander Fraser, Edwin A. Moffat, Rudolph Wagner. Section 35—Henry Crapo, John W. Osborn, Alexander Fraser, Stephen F. Johnson. Section 36—Loren M. Barrett, Henry Sisco.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

The first settler of the township was John A. Dyer, later a resident of Ferris, who came in in 1854 and settled on the southeast quarter of section 12. He built a good log house, set out an orchard, planted the first crops, and made the first improvements of note long before any other settler came in. His wife, who died subsequently, is regarded to be the first death in Day township.

About the year 1862 several families came to the township and entered small tracts on section 8. They all built small cabins, but soon after, selling their claims, removed. The next settler and the first permanent one in that vicinity, was Alonzo Darling, who, under the state homestead law, entered one hundred and twenty acres, principally on section 8. He made some permanent improvements, conspicuous among which was building a large barn and clearing forty acres.

Sebastian Martin was the first settler in the west part of the town, having entered land and built a cabin on section 6 as early as 1862. With his wife he lived here for a time, making shingles by hand; but at length he, too, sold for one thousand dollars and moved. His wife was subsequently drowned in Grand river.

In May, 1864, accompanied by his cousin, Marcellus Palmer, came in, and with him purchased two hundred acres of Jacob Lemasters for three dollars and fifty cents per acre. H. E. W. Palmer was formerly a regular minister of the Baptist church, but his health failing, he sought the pine

lands of Michigan in hopes of restoring it. After purchasing, Marcellus returned to Ionia and in about eight months brought his family to Day. In 1865 Conrad Rouash settled on section 7, where he remained a number of years, when he moved to Douglass.

Some time after the settlement of the Palmers, Norman Webster came in and bought the northeast quarter of section 8, for which he paid a team of horses, a wagon, and some minor consideration. He also sold out and moved to Kent county, thence to Texas. John Harrington came from Hillsdale county, Michigan, in 1864, and settled on section 19.

In the spring of 1866 the school board formed the northwest quarter of the township into a school district. The first school meeting was held at the house of H. E. W. Palmer, he being chosen director, and Samuel Butts, moderator, Marcellus Palmer, assessor. The first school was taught by Mrs. H. E. W. Palmer in an unoccupied room in her dwelling. Arrangements were made to build a log school house, but the motion was reconsidered by a vote of the district, and it was decided to erect a frame one, which was accordingly done. The second term, however, was taught by Lodema Palmer in the log house of Samuel Butts, before the school house was completed. She became the wife of E. M. Mallet. The second school was taught in the northeastern part of the township; but, as the inhabitants mostly soon after removed, the district formation was dropped.

The first public religious meeting in Day, so far as is known, was conducted by Rev. H. E. W. Palmer in his house in 1864. The first Sabbath school was organized by Marcellus Palmer at his house, and of which he was elected first superintendent.

These settlements above referred to were all in the west and southwest portions of the township. One of the earliest settlers in the east part of the township was Smith Felton, who located the north half of the northeast quarter of section 26 soon after the Civil War, from whence he came as a soldier. He made a small clearing and built a log house on the high south bank of Hooker branch of Fish creek, where he lived until his death, in the early nineties. Another old settler of that locality was Josephus Dasef, who settled on section 25 soon after Felton came in. He built a frame house on his homestead, about the first in the township, and early engaged in the lumbering business. He cut the pine timber from his homestead and from other lands which he purchased, drew them to the banks of Fish creek, but a short distance away, and in the spring of the years he was in business floated them down to Grand Haven, where they were manufactured into lumber. He closed out his business in 1872 and moved to Stanton, where

he remained until 1876, when he purchased a farm in Bushnell township, which he developed and lived thereon until old age and ill health compelled him to sell, when he moved to Stanton in 1907, where he and his wife lived until their deaths, in July, 1915. They died within two weeks of each other.

VILLAGE OF M'BRIDE.

The village is named after Alexander McBride, a native of Wayne county, New York, who came to Day township and in 1874 purchased the saw-mill built by Emery Mallet the year previous. The following year it burned, being a total loss, but it was at once rebuilt by him, and from that time the locality was known as McBride's Mill. When the railroad company established its station near by it adopted the name which has accordingly been applied to the village. It is situated principally upon the southwest quarter of section 9. It was platted by D. L. Jacobs in 1877. About the same time Phipps Waldo laid out the east half of the northeast quarter of section 8 in village lots, which he named Custer. Several lots were sold and a number of buildings erected; the first completed was the blacksmith and wagon shop of Dean Wilber, being the first business place in the village of Custer, which is now properly considered a part of McBride.

Phipps Waldo came to Day township in 1864, and entered the southeast quarter of section 2, where he resided until February, 1872. C. A. Chillson opened the first store in the village. The sales for the first six months amounted to eight or ten thousand dollars.

Soon after J. A. Waldeon opened a stock of ready-made clothing, being the second in the village. The sales amounted on an average to ten thousand dollars per year. The growth and prosperity of McBride continued unchecked with one exception.

On Saturday, May 16, 1885, fire broke out in McBride about five o'clock in the evening, and before it had spent its force had destroyed property valued at \$57,400 and made twenty-four families homeless. The fire was started from a stove pipe which passed through the ceiling of Andrew Martin's house and on account of a strong wind was soon beyond all control. Altogether fifty-seven buildings were burned. The total insurance carried on the destroyed and damaged property amounted to only \$13,250.

Notwithstanding this and other lesser fires which were very disastrous, McBride has grown and is continuing to grow as fast as any other town of its size in the county. McBride is one of the large shipping points on the Pere Marquette road in this county, and has proven an excellent market for all kinds of farm produce. This makes it one of the lively towns in this

section of the county. It is the only town in Day township and is not rivalled in this respect. It has at present a population of about six or seven hundred. Benjamin Caldwell operates the only elevator and does an extensive business in all feeds and grains. Neff's Bank is one of the strong financial institutions of the county, while the *McBride Review* takes care of the publicity for the town. The other business firms of the town consist of the two general stores of Arthur Steere and William Alberts. There are two hardware firms, D. W. Dean and Oscar Swift, and the Godfrey implement store. George Pierce is the proprietor of the only drug store, while Michael Fredericks has a candy store. The Woodruff hotel caters to the commercial trade.

WESTVILLE.

The village of Westville was laid out by Daniel West, who owned one hundred and twenty acres, which included part of the west half of section 7, of Day. Upon this, in anticipation of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroad, he platted a village, which naturally thereafter took his name. He gave ten acres of land for depot purposes and five hundred dollars in cash to the company as an inducement for them to extend their line to this place. The citizens also raised nine hundred dollars for the same purpose, which, as it appears, was paid to the company in full; but the road passed to the east some distance, and the village has not therefore reached the importance hoped by its founders. The first business place opened was a general store owned by Jordan & Allen.

Westville was platted on April 30, 1886, and with the growth of McBride, Westville gradually began to decline until nothing now remains but a cluster of residences. During the early days, however, this was a very prosperous town. Mr. Luce kept a hotel here, and it was a great stopping place for travelers through this section, but after the building of the railroad, which ran to the east of Westville two miles, McBride became the commercial center. At present Westville is only a little hamlet with no business interests of any kind.

CUSTER.

Custer was platted on April 2, 1878, for Phipps Waldo and Leah Waldo, proprietors, by Ade F. Gardner, surveyor. To many of the readers of this book this would prove a puzzle if no explanation was given. It is a plat of that part of McBride which lies on the east side of Division street, but why a separate name was given is not for the writer to say, as in reality it was platted just six weeks before the village of McBride.

CHAPTER IX.

DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP.

Douglass township is situated in the north central part of the county and is bounded on the north by Belvidere, on the east by Day, on the south by Sidney and on the west by Pine. Until the organization of Douglass it was attached to the township of Pine.

The petition for the erection of Douglass township was presented to the board of supervisors with the following signatures: Daniel Lang, Joseph Wilcox, Alfred Wakeman, Christian Harner, Ira Hale, Emerson Hale, Emory Hale, Richard Charnley, Sylvester Rockafellow, Charles Service, David R. Hart, John J. Riley, Alphonso Brundage, Arnold Clark, A. S. Clark, S. S. Whitmer, J. S. Whitmer, Benjamin Persens, Enos Root, Aaron Hunt, Benajah Persens, Stephen Aldrich, J. V. Whitmer and George R. Hart. This petition bore the date of February 17, 1864, and consisted of the territory embraced by town 11 north, range 7 west.

The board of supervisors granted the prayer of the petitioners on February 17, 1864, and created the township as desired. The first election in the township was held at the house of Aaron Hunt on the first Monday of April, 1864, at nine o'clock, and at this first meeting Alphonso Brundage, S. S. Whitmer and Banajah Persens presided. The naming of this township seems to have caused the greatest difficulty. In the original petition as first written the name of Washington was selected for the new township, but before this was presented to the board of supervisors this was scratched out and the name Lincoln written above it. Lincoln was also placed on the map which accompanied the petition and was also written in the minutes of this meeting of the supervisors. But in all three cases it was scratched out and the name Douglass inserted. The latter name was selected in honor of Stephen A. Douglas, the presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket in 1860 and for whom a majority of the electors of the township voted. At the first election Alphonso Brundage, Benajah Persens and S. L. Smith were chosen justices of the peace; S. L. Smith, supervisor; S. S. Whitmore, Aaron Hunt and Benajah Persens, highway commissioners; S. S. Whitmore and S. L. Smith, school inspectors; S. S. Whitmore and Adam Shaffer, constables.

LAND ENTRIES.

Section 1—Luther L. Ward, Erastus P. Brown, Jonathan H. Loomis, John Brown, D. S. West, Edmund Hall. Section 2—Allen Wright, Liberty B. Britton, Darius P. Blood, Amos S. Johnson, Wood and Gilbert. Section 3—Aloney Rust, Hiram Rossman, Seth Holcomb, O. Wright. Section 4—Aloney Rust, Abel French, John Cook, Peter Johnson, Josiah Rupell, Eliza Hurd. Section 5—Aloney Rust, Peter Johnson, Jacob A. Dairs, Carso Crane, Lyman H. Pratt, Frederick H. Noteware, Benajah Persens, Lorenzo Buckley. Section 6—Oscar F. Cargill, Jacob A. Davis, Carso Crane, John J. Edly, Henry C. Byram. Section 7—Fite Rossman, Oscar F. Cargill, Hiram Rossman, S. F. Page, John Frisler, Jacob A. Davis, John J. Ely, Miller Wood. Section 8—Aloney Rust, Hiram Rossman, George Rossman, Stephen Page, John Tripler, Jacob Davis, Henry C. Bryam, Cyrees Woodman. Section 9—Aloney Rust, Stephen Page, Jacob A. Davis, Stephen Aldrich, John A. Brady. Section 10—Martin Shearer, Oliver P. Knox, Erastus P. Brown, Benjamin Persens, Thomas S. Aldrich, William A. McCloud, George Carpenter. Section 11—Erastus Brown, Henry W. Wilson, John Trisler, Carso Crane, Oliver P. Knox, Isaac M. Harris, Alphonso Brundage. Section 12—William Baker, Charles B. Wilson, William and Cornelius Van Name and Stephen McNeil, Andrew J. Clark, Enor L. Root. Section 13—Charles Wilson, Henry Wilson, William Van Name, W. and C. Van Name and S. McNeil. Section 14—Henry Wilson, John Trisler, Carso Crane, David R. Chandler, John S. Whitmer, Stephen S. Whitmer. Section 15—John Trisler, Godfrey Aumaugher, Carso Crane, Aaron Hunt, Stephen S. Whitmer, Aaron Hunt, Josiah Bennett, Jacob B. Barr. Section 16—Eli Hunt, Joseph J. Carpenter, Adam Shaeffer, George W. Entrican, Albert L. Entrican, Jacob Miller, Eli Hunt, Joseph C. Vaughn, Timothy J. Scidmore, George Bellamy, Joseph Wilcox, N. H. Briggs, W. Simmons. Section 17—Aloney Rust, George Rossman, Hiram Rossman, Edward B. Edwards, Stephen F. Page, Timothy Scidmore. Section 18—Stephen Page, George Rossman. Section 19—Silas Barton, Aloney Rust, George Loucks, Benjamin B. Knight, Edward B. Edwards, Larmon Chatfield, Stephen F. Page. Section 20—Daniel L. Newton, Silas Barton, George Loucks, Benjamin Knight, Larmon Chatfield, Edward B. Edwards, Myndert Boose. Section 21—Aloney Rust, Edward B. Edwards, Myndert Bover, Edwin Merrifield, Jacob B. Barr. Section 22—Edwin R. Merrifield, John Shamp, Jacob B. Barr. Section 23—Charles B. Wilson, David R. Chandler, W. and C. Van Name and S. McNeil. Section 24—Charles Wilson, William and Cornelius Van Name and S. McNeil, William J. Cornell, William Armstrong. Section 25—William J. Cornell. Section 26—William J. Cornell, David R. Chandler.

Section 27—Edmund Hall. Section 28—Loren Curtis, Jacob B. Barr, S. Gates, Edmund Hall. Section 29—Charles Leonard, Thomas J. Bruner, Ambrose Atwood, C. Hewitt, J. B. Barr. Section 30—John Lewis, Edward B. Edwards, Carso Crane, Charles Leonard, Thomas J. Bruner. Section 31—Stephen Page, Carso Crane. Section 32—James Clifford, Rheubar Whitman. Section 33—Edwin B. Moore, John Brown, Edmund Hall. Section 34—Hiram Amsbury, Adolphus L. Skinner, Russell Ackley, Adolphus L. Skinner. Section 35—Benjamin Towle, Joseph Smith.

Clifford lake, a beautiful body of water over a mile in length, is situated on sections 30 and 32. Upon its banks are several residences, and the groves are being utilized as picnic grounds and places of summer resort.

PIONEERS OF DOUGLASS.

The first settler in Douglass was Hiram Weller, but the exact date of his arrival is not definitely known. It was probably the fall of 1853, as in the following year he sold his claim and removed to Langston, where the John Green Company was erecting a saw-mill. He remained there several years working for the company, when he moved away. Peter Johnson, who purchased the claim of Hiram Weller, was the second settler in the township. Soon after taking possession he built a more commodious cabin, cleared a small piece of land, and sowed the first spring crops. About the time of his arrival Uriah Stout and Messrs. Covey, Murray, Bradford and a number of other settlers pre-empted land in the vicinity, but none of these remained long enough to make any permanent improvements, and none brought families except Uriah Stout.

William Goodwater, who settled just over the line, on section 32, in Belvidere, came in about the same time. He soon after came into Douglass and built a cabin near Little Penny lake, which was named after a nickname applied to him. He also subsequently moved to the mills below on Flat river, where he died.

James Farnsworth pre-empted eighty acres on the east half of section 9, but within a year he sold to Stephen Aldrich, who, in the summer of 1854, came into the township to look for government land. His wife, formerly Rebecca Stewart, whose parents settled in the township of Gilead, Branch county, and became permanent settlers there with the family, came to the township of Douglass in the fall of 1854. Mr. Aldrich went to work immediately to clear and improve his farm. The following spring he set out the first fruit trees in Douglass. In 1862 he enlisted in the Seventh Cavalry,

continuing in the army and participating in the campaigns of that regiment during the war.

In the year 1854 Benajah Persens and his family came in and settled in the northern part. He purchased forty acres of land and lived here until his death.

David R. Hart, Alphonso Brundage and Stephen Whitmer came in soon after the settlement of Mr. Persens. Alphonso Brundage had been a resident of Ann Arbor, whence he came to Douglass and bought the north half of the northeast quarter of section 11, where he built a cabin. David R. Hart sold a part of his land to S. L. Smith, who, with Aaron Hunt, came to Michigan first in 1847, and lived a number of years at Jackson. He subsequently returned to Pennsylvania, where he lived until he came to Douglass, as stated above. At the first township meeting he was elected supervisor, and when justice, officiated at the first wedding after the organization of the township, being that of Jacob Miller and Mary Hunt.

Mr. Miller came to Michigan from Monroe county, New York, in 1856. Aaron Hunt entered one hundred and sixty acres, which was the south half of the northwest quarter and the east half of the southwest quarter of section 15, where he resided until his death, in the spring of 1867. His son, Eli Hunt, served in the Union army during the Rebellion.

George W. Entrican, another early resident of Douglass, was born in Oakland county, to which place his parents came in 1836, being among its first settlers. He came to Easton, Ionia county, in 1847. He was among the first to enlist from Douglass, and served two years and six months in Company K, Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, participating in the campaigns of the Army of the Cumberland under General McCook. For two years he was clerk of the township. Joseph and A. Ellsworth were the first permanent settlers in the southwest part. Clifford lake is named after Mr. Clifford, a feeble old man who settled near it, and who was found dead beside an oak log, having been taken sick suddenly while at work.

Although as early as 1853 the settlement of Douglass commenced, and from this time until 1864 many additions were made, but few became permanent settlers in the township. The great obstacle to its prosperity was the total lack of highways and the consequent inconvenience to travel. The general routes to the north had been through the township to the east and Pine and Cato to the west. A state road was early located along the east bank of Flat river, but when the saw-mill at Langston and a bridge across the river at that place were completed, and this route to the Big Rapids

made passable, no further attention was given the route through Douglass until many years after. As it became necessary, the settlers each as they came underbrushed the road where it appeared the most feasible, and as a consequence, it wound about all conceivable obstacles. After the organization of the township it was considerably improved, S. L. Smith doing a large part of the work. The improvements in other parts of the township were rapid, large sums of money being raised by taxing land held by speculators.

The river road originally followed as near as possible an Indian trail which extended along the east bank of the river to the Indian settlement near the central part of Douglass. It contained about forty families under Shogwogino, who built and occupied a house located on the farm of S. L. Smith. In 1860 the entire tribe, with the exception of three families, were removed to the North by the government. It appears from the clearing made and the land which they tilled being free of stumps that they had lived here many years previous to the entry of the whites.

About three years after his settlement in Douglass, Peter Johnson, already referred to, went to Greenville to find work, as was his custom, to procure the necessary provisions for his family. It was the year so long remembered on account of the late frosts, when the little pieces of corn and garden stuffs of the settlers, so important to them, were totally destroyed, when want and suffering abounded on every hand, and had it not been for aid voted by the state and sent gratuitously from older settled districts absolute famine must have prevailed. Game, which to this time had been plentiful, suddenly became scarce and almost impossible to be secured, and when obtained was lean and unpalatable. The following spring little children barefooted scoured the banks of streams before the frost had fairly left the ground to find succulent plants to be boiled and eaten. To find work was almost impossible; nevertheless, Peter Johnson left his family and went to Greenville, as before stated. While absent his wife, who in a recent illness had been attended by Mrs. Stephen Aldrich, who lived nearly two miles distant and who walked that distance through the forest many times to see her and administer to her wants, went to the house of Mrs. Goodwater to ask her to come and stay with her children, which she had left sleeping in a cradle near the fire, while she called on Mrs. Aldrich, who was now ill. The two women returned and found the cabin enveloped in flames and the roof just falling in. The mother was almost paralyzed but was taken away from the spot by Mrs. Goodwater, and by her conducted to the house where she had intended to call. The children, the elder of whom was two and one-half years of age, and the younger a babe, perished in the flames. Their charred remains were gathered the following morning, placed in a box and



buried near the site upon which the cabin stood. It is said the parents did not visit the spot, but removed to the south part of the county. Olive, the elder of the two, was the first white child born in the township, and it was proposed to name it in her honor, but owing to a similarity of this name with another in the south part of the state it was abandoned.

The first marriage in Douglass was that of William Goodwater to Mrs. Julia Buckley, and took place in the house of Leonard Buckley.

The cemetery on the farm of the late Stephen Aldrich was the first public burial place in Douglass, and the first person interred here was William Entrican.

The first orchard was probably set out by Aaron Hunt, in the spring of 1864, and contained one hundred trees. James Lee built the first framed dwelling in the winter of 1865-66, and about the same time Moses Hunt built the first framed barn, on the northeast quarter of section 14.

ENTRICAN.

Entrican is the only town, or rather village, in Douglass township at the present. It lies in the south-central part of section 9, and although an old town, it was never platted. It began its existence in the lumber days, and with the exhaustion of this industry, has fought bravely to maintain an existence. Located, as it is, in the central part of the township some eight miles northwest of Stanton, it has proved a trading center. There are at present some fifty inhabitants, with two churches and a postoffice.

The business interests of the town consists of two stores, owned by Herman Smith and Ray Pintler. There is also a small blacksmith shop for the convenience of its patrons. In the palmy days, when the lumber industry was at its height, millions of feet of logs passed down Flat river, which flows only a short distance to the west of Entrican, and the saw-mills at this place did a flourishing business. But those days are over and the interests of Entrican are kept alive by the farmers of this section.

POINT RICHARDS.

Point Richards, which lies in the extreme southwestern part of Douglass township and on the west side of Clifford lake, was platted on June 11, 1881, for James W. and Nettie D. Richards, proprietors, by F. A. Palmer, surveyor. This is now the location of the Clifford lake summer resort, which is owned and managed by Ulysses G. Hayden. It is quite a resort and consists of a hotel, dancing pavilion and a few cottages. The dancing pavilion is unique and original, having been built around a large oak tree.

CHAPTER X.

EUREKA TOWNSHIP.

Eureka township began its existence at the same time that Montcalm county was organized. The Legislature which erected this county also officially organized Eureka township, under the Act No. 177, approved on March 28, 1850. This township consisted of congressional township 9 north, range 8 west, and was set off from Montcalm township, of which it was originally a part. It lies in the extreme southwestern part of the county and is bounded on the north by Montcalm township, on the east by Fairplain township, on the south by Ionia county and on the west by Kent county. The first town meeting was ordered to be held at "the district school house, near the Greenville postoffice."

At the meeting held in the township to choose a suitable cognomen for the new born township, after a due amount of discussion, it was christened Wabasis, after the creek of that name that flows through the township. The creek itself having been named, long before this time, after Wabasis, an Indian chief, and thereby hangs a tale. The son, John, of this Indian chief, relates that his father offended his tribe by deeding certain lands to the United States, in consequence he was condemned to be banished to that part of the country lying north of Wabasis creek and west of Flat river, the understanding being that he was not to venture south of these precincts under penalty of death. Unfortunately for him he allowed designing Indians to persuade him to take part in a pow-wow at the mouth of Flat river, and during the ceremony he was set upon and killed. But returning to the name Wabasis, it seems that this did not appear to strike the fancy of A. L. Roof, the legislative representative of the district, as favorably as it did the townpeople. So of his own volition he substituted the name Eureka, which means "I have found it," but just why he made this change cannot now be determined. It happened that the good people of this township were at first prone to look upon Mr. Roof's amendment as discourteous, but eventually they became reconciled to the name, and it has never been changed.

The first town meeting was held in the school house of district No. 1.

April 1, 1850, as ordered by the act of March 28th. Stephen H. Warren was chosen moderator at this initial meeting; Ethan Satterlee, inspector; John Porter and Aaron G. Stockholm, clerks. There were sixty-six votes cast at this election, and the following officers elected: Supervisor, Rosecrans Divine; clerk, Westbrook Divine, who was the only candidate for this office; treasurer, A. W. Maynard; justices of peace, Hiram H. Slawson and John M. Sheldon; highway commissioners, John C. Stockholm, for three years, Abram Roosa, for two years, Ethan Satterlee, for one year; school inspectors, John Porter and Josiah Bradish; assessors, Nathaniel Coons and George Van Ness; constables, Henry Satterlee, Enoch R. Wilcox, J. M. Becker and Elijah Van Derhoof; overseers of the poor, Enoch R. Wilcox and Ethan Satterlee. Thus the township of Eureka, the fourth township to be organized in Montcalm county, took on a definite government.

INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF WESTBROOK DIVINE.

It seems fairly well established that the first settlement in Eureka township and also in Montcalm county was made in August, 1814. Hon. Westbrook Divine, who was a prominent figure in the early history of the county, has related the story of that settlement, together with mention of incidents leading thereto and following after, the substance of which is here set out:

In August, 1843, Stephen H. Warren and R. K. Divine, then living in central New York, started for the far West in search of land locations. After looking over the southern portion of the state where they hoped to find places to suit them, without, however, succeeding to their taste, they visited Grand Rapids. There they met John Ball, who advised them to visit Montcalm county, and acting upon the suggestion they found sure enough, in what is now Eureka township, such land tracts as they wanted. Each selected one hundred and twenty acres in section 34, and thus having finished what he had come for, Divine returned at once to the East for his family. Warren concluded to stop behind, and arranging to board at John Shaw's, in Otisco, worked during the month ensuing upon his Eureka farm, breaking up in that time about four acres. Mr. Warren's work, as noted, may therefore be regarded as the first attempt at land clearing in Eureka, and probably in the county as well.

R. K. Divine reached his New York home in August, 1843, and on the 4th of September, following, started once more for Michigan, accompanied by his wife and brother, Westbrook. Journeying via lake to Detroit, they bought an ox team at the latter place and pushed on by way of Scott's and

Lyons village. Ten days after leaving Detroit, and sixteen after the departure from their New York home, they landed at John Shaw's, September 20. They found Warren still on the ground and assisted by him and Westbrook Divine, R. K. Divine put up a framed house on section 34, the lumber being obtained at Dickinson's mill, in Otisco. Touching Stephen Warren, it may be briefly stated that he left for New York a few days after the arrival of the Divines, married there, and returned to Eureka in July, 1844, for a permanent settlement. He remained a citizen of the town until his death, in 1878.

Mr. Divine's house, in which he moved on October 29, 1843, is said to have been the first house erected in the county. R. K. Divine lived in Eureka until 1866, when he removed to Oakland county, in Michigan.

Hon. Westbrook Divine assisted his brother, R. K., until December, 1843, when he bought sixty acres, and between work upon his own place and occasional labors for his brother he divided his time and energies until January, 1845, when, on the 27th of that month, he married Elizabeth Roosa, of Otisco, and took a place among the actual settlers of Eureka. Although Mr. Divine was the first one of Eureka's settlers to marry, he was married, as a matter of fact, out of the town. The first marriage in the town was that of Abraham Roosa, of Otisco, to Deborah, daughter of John Green, in February, 1845, at Mr. Green's house, in what is now the city of Greenville.

While on this topic it may be well enough to record that the first birth in the town was that of Josephine, daughter of John Green, in June, 1845. She later became Mrs. Starkweather and resided in Greenville. The first male child born was John, son of R. K. Divine, January 16, 1846. He made his home in Oakland county, Michigan. The first death was that of Mrs. John Loucks, who died in 1846, and was buried on the bank of the Flat river, above Greenville. After her death burials were chiefly made on Enos T. Peck's place, east of Greenville. But few persons were interred there, however, before the town laid out a burial place west of Greenville.

There was some controversy as to the proper place for the location of the town cemetery, for about every man in town wanted the graveyard near his place, and when the matter came before the town board for decision there was such a conflict of opinion that, as the only method of determining who should locate the burial ground, it was resolved to draw cuts. It happened that the task fell to Westbrook Divine, who bought of John Green four acres of land lying just west of Greenville, for which he paid one

hundred dollars. His action in paying so much money for a cemetery site was generally regarded as a species of wild extravagance, and as a clincher popular argument pointed to the conclusion that the four acres would never be entirely occupied with graves, for the reasoning was that the town would not have people enough to make a sufficient number of deaths probable within at least a century. Divine simply said, "Wait and see." The graveyard has long since been so crowded with graves that no burials have taken place there for many a day.

Until the summer of 1845 R. K. Divine, Westbrook Divine and Stephen Warren lived with their families in R. K. Divine's house. Warren built a house in 1845, and Westbrook Divine built one in 1846.

In the earliest days of the settlement, milling was done at Ionia and wheat marketing chiefly at Grand Rapids. The latter trip, made with ox team via Plainfield, and there across the river via ferry, usually consumed three days for the round journey. When the night camp was made bells were tied upon the cattle and the traveler himself, using the ox yoke as his pillow, slept soundly enough until opening dawn warned him to be up and away. Westbrook Divine hauled a load of twenty-four bushels of wheat to Grand Rapids and selling it at fifty cents per bushel, took his pay in money issued by Daniel Ball's bank. Before he reached home the bank failed, and the twelve dollars that young Divine had looked upon as a fat reward for his produce and labored efforts to get it to market melted away to nothingness, like mist before the morning sun. It was pretty hard, but he had to stand it. After keeping the money a year in the hope that it would be redeemed he sold it at seven cents on the dollar, at which rate it yielded him for his wheat just three cents and a half per bushel.

Lyman H. Pratt, Ethan Satterlee, Sr., and Westbrook Divine, as the first board of highway commissioners of Montcalm township, laid out the first roads in the present town of Eureka. One of the roads was a continuation, from the south line of Montcalm, of the road coming northward from Cook's Corners. That road they carried on to Lincoln's mill on the north—a distance of eight miles. Another road, laid about the same time, was one from Warren's Corners to Greenville, and a third a branch road from Greenville into Fairplain.

Besides having been one of the first highway commissioners chosen in Montcalm, Westbrook Divine was chosen the first town clerk of Eureka; was in 1850 elected county register of deeds, in which office he continued four years; was supervisor for Eureka from 1856 to 1881 (with the exception of only two years); served two terms as state senator, from 1863 to

1867; was appointed United States assessor in 1867 and retained the place until the office was abolished, in 1872; was in 1875 appointed by Governor Bagley as one of the commissioners of the Ionia house of correction (of which he was one of the board of managers); was president of the Excelsior Agricultural Society of Otisco from 1871; was president of the board of directors of the People's Fire Insurance Company of the counties of Ionia and Montcalm; and for a long time was prominently identified with Grange affairs in town, county and state. Such a record is of some consequence, and in a historical way receives additional lustre from the fact that its possessor was the oldest living resident in the county until his death, and one of its very first settlers.

THE SAXTON ENTRY.

One of the earliest land entries in Montcalm county is said to be a tract of forty-nine acres in lot 8, on section 22, upon the bank of the Flat river. The patentee, Silas Saxton, of New York, entered the land in 1839, and for a long time it laid wholly idle. Mr. Saxton paid the taxes regularly on it, and when asked why he did not improve it or sell it, said that he wanted to keep it for the satisfaction of owning some Michigan land, and that although he did not care to have it improved, his children might some day take a notion to make a farm of it.

The earliest comers (outside of Greenville), next to the Divines and Warrens, were the Satterlees. There were Ethan Satterlee and his three married sons, Alexander, Ethan, Jr., and Henry (each of whom was a man of family), and four unmarried sons and daughters. The Satterlees owned about six hundred acres of land located on sections 7, 8 and 28. Henry, who had come on to prepare the way, as it were, had been on the ground about two weeks when his father and the other members of the family arrived. When the latter reached Eureka all hands moved into Henry's shanty, and on the following day Satterlee and his sons put up a house, and finished it before night ready for occupancy, although to tell the truth it was not much of a house. The Satterlees brought in five teams of horses and a drove of cattle, the horses being the first animals of that kind to enter the town. There had been horses in the vicinity, owned by Cook Morse and Shaw, but they lived in Otisco. Ethan Satterlee, the elder and his son, Alexander, located on section 8, Henry on section 7, and Ethan, Jr., on section 28. The Divines and Warren probably put in the first orchard, the trees for which he brought from Jackson.

One of Ethan Satterlee's daughters, named Catharine, taught at Greenville in 1846, the first school known in Montcalm county. She taught two summers in Greenville, and for two summers after that in the Loucks neighborhood, east of Greenville, where Harriet Wilcox was perhaps the first teacher. During the period that Miss Satterlee taught in the Loucks neighborhood, the settlers thereabouts included the two Loucks families, the Maynards, Sandersons, Sanders, Moores and Moors. North of Greenville, on the Flat river in section 9, was a small band of Indians called Blacksmith Indians, who to the number of a dozen or more, lived on a forty-acre patch of land and pretended to cultivate it, but who did far less land cultivating than loafing and begging. They lived in huts and eked out a precarious existence by hunting and fishing and sugar-making until the filling up of the country drove out the game, and then the loafing redskins made off for more northerly latitudes.

OTHER EARLY SETTLERS.

In 1846, John C. Stockholm, a New Yorker, came West to embark in the lumbering business with the Worden Brothers, of Wordens' mills, in Montcalm township. When Stockholm reached the country he concluded the lumbering business would not suit him, and determining to engage in pioneering in its stead, bought of James Kerr, on section 33, in Eureka, a farm of which Mr. Kerr had improved thirty-six acres, and had built thereon a log house and framed barn, the latter (erected in 1845) being the first one of the kind in Eureka. On the town line south of him were R. K. Divine, Westbrook, Divine, Stephen Warren and Lorenzo Whitney. The latter, who had been in about two years, lived east of Westbrook Divine, and after a residence of seven years moved back to New York state.

In 1847, A. G. Stockholm, brother of John C., came out to Eureka to look around, and looked around to such good purpose that he bought one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 32. In 1848 he went back to New York state and married. In 1849 he returned to Michigan for permanent settlement. John C. Stockholm resided in Eureka until 1865 when he embarked in business at Cook's Corners, in Otisco. About the time of A. G. Stockholm's coming to Eureka in 1847, came also Josiah Bradish, who in 1850 sold out to William Stokes and moved to Fairplain.

Henry M. Moore, already mentioned as one of the earliest settlers, opened the first store in the township, on section 11, in 1848, just without the present limits of Greenville. William Backus was one of Mr. Moore's

clerks, of whom two others were W. E. Sholes and E. B. Campbell. The location was probably not a profitable one for trade, for after a two-years experience Mr. Moore closed the store. Outside of Greenville that was the only place of trade Eureka ever possessed.

The first white woman to penetrate into the territory north of Wabasis creek is said to have been a woman who in the spring of 1844 went over the creek and into Greenville to keep house for John Green and his mill hands. Her name cannot now be recalled.

Mr. Nelson came in somewhere about 1850 and not long afterwards caused the creation of Eureka postoffice and the appointment of himself as postmaster—a place that he held until the office was discontinued.

GREENVILLE.

Greenville, the chief commercial town of Montcalm county, is located in the north-central part of Eureka township, but the history of this town will be taken up in detail in another chapter. The only other town in Eureka township which was ever platted is that of South Park. This is a summer resort and is located in section 21 on the south banks of Baldwin lake. It was surveyed and platted by M. Cankin for Carpenter C. Merritt, Mary A. Merritt, his wife, Peter McDermond and Carrie McDermond, his wife, proprietors, September 23, 1895. At present there are a number of cottages and this is a popular local resort for the people of this section to spend the summer along the lake.

BALDWIN LAKE RESORT.

The name of this resort is now locally known as Baldwin Lake resort. Cottages are located all around the lake and these are owned mostly by the people of Greenville who make this their summer home. These cottages are built on either side but mostly on the right side of the drive which extends entirely around the lake. This is a very beautiful resort, and one of the largest and most popular in the township.

TOWNSHIP HIGHWAYS.

From the highway records of the township of Montcalm, it appears that previous to the organization of town 9, there were twenty surveys of roads in that town. The first four were as follows: May 27, 1845, a road com-

mencing at a post twenty chains east of section 33, and ending at the mill yard of Green & Company; September 9, 1845, a road commencing at the quarter post on the south side of section 33, and ending at the quarter post on the west side of section 6; December 9, 1845, a road commencing at the northeast corner of section 16, and running eastward to the quarter post on the east side of section 13. June 25, 1846, a road lying on a line between the towns of Montcalm and Courtland, commencing at the northwest corner of section 6, town 9 north, range 8 west, and ending at the southeast corner of section 31, town 9 north, range 8 west.

On May 13, 1850, the township of Eureka was divided into ten road-districts. District No. 1 included sections 7, 8, 17 and 18. No. 2 commenced at the southwest corner of section 16, ran east to Flat river, up the river to the quarter section line on the east side of section 9; thence north on said line to the northeast corner of said section; thence south to the southwest corner of section 16, the place of beginning. No. 3 commenced at the quarter post on the north side of section 2, running south on the quarter line to the quarter post on the south side of section 11; thence west on section line to the centre of Flat river; thence up the centre of Flat river to the west side of section 10; thence north to the northwest corner of section 3; thence east to the quarter post on the north side of section 2, to the place of beginning. No. 4 included sections 13 and 14, and all of 15 lying on the eastern side of Flat river. No. 5 included the south half of section 25, the south half of 26, the whole of 27, the southeast quarter of 28, the east half of 33, the whole of 34, 35 and 36, and lot No. 8 on section 22. No. 6 included section 1, the east half of 2, the east half of 11, and the whole of 12. No. 7 included the southwest quarter of section 28, the south half of 29, the south half of 30, the whole of 31 and 32, and the west half of 33. No. 8 commenced at the northwest corner of section 19, and ran eastward to the center of Flat river; thence down the river to the quarter line of section 27; thence west to the quarter post on the west side of section 30, thence north to the place of beginning. No. 9 included sections 4, 5 and 6. No. 10 commenced at the northeast corner of section 24, and ran west to Flat river; thence down said river to the quarter line of section 26; thence east to the quarter post on the east side of 25; thence north to the place of beginning.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES IN EUREKA.

Section 1—Henry Brayton, Peter Green, John Porter, Rufus K. Moors, Phite Monroe, Charles Hubbs, C. W. Butter. Section 2—Hiram Rossman,

George Rossman, Elijah Warden, Hiram Rossman, Charles Hubbs, Levi Makley, Phite Rossman, William Walkington. Section 3—Fite Rossman, George Loucks, Noah Robbins, Henry M. Moore, Lewis E. Smith, Jacob W. Petty. Section 4—Russell, Green and Demerest, James Kerr, Lewis E. Smith, Smith Miller, George Rossman. Section 5—George Kelley, Joseph Brown and John Allcroft, William Degotis, George Loucks and Fite Rossman, Leonard Stewart, Edward Butler, Jacob W. Petty, John D. Wilson, George W. Peck, Martin Shearer. Section 6—Henry H. Rowland, Smith Rowland, George W. Peck, John D. Wilson, Andrew P. Crowell, John M. Sheldon, George Green. Section 7—Amos L. Fay, Henry Satterlee, Eri Satterlee, Ezra Satterlee. Section 8—William Atwood, James McGinley, George Kelley, Robert Shaw, Ethan Satterlee. Section 9—Ethan Satterlee, Josiah Russels, S. Demerest. Section 10—Charles Harrison, Henry M. Moore, George Vanness, Jacob W. Petty, George Holmden, Charles Seymour, James Grant, Amos H. Russell and Alexander N. Loomis, Ira Porter. Section 11—William Holinden, Charles Seymour, George Loucks, James Grant, Richard A. Porter, Henry M. Moore, Levi Makley Evans Williams. Section 12—Miles Porter, Rufus K. Moors, Richard A. Porter. Section 13—Ira Porter, John and William M. Porter, Lewis E. Johnson. Section 14—John Porter, Henry M. Moore, Levi Peck, George Loucks, Daniel W. Tomlinson, Augustus W. Maynard. Section 15—Ira Porter, Thomas Green, Evan Williams, Daniel W. Tomlinson, Joseph C. Bailey. Section 16—John Loucks, Henry M. Moore, Thomas Green, Smith and Moore, James Chamberlain, Lewis E. Smith, Enos T. Peck, Samuel B. Peck, Manning Rutan, George and Erastus Fisher, Samuel B. Peck, James B. Chamberlain, Leonard Conant, A. S. Watson. Section 17—George W. King, Ethan Satterlee, Alexander Satterlee, William Kitts, Ethan Satterlee. Section 18—Norman Satterlee, William B. Floyd, William Stuver, Abel Bill, David I. Pennock, Solomon Satterlee. Section 19—Enoch Brown, Madder Macomber, Solomon Satterlee, George W. Paul, John C. Stockholm, Emily A. Shons, Fanny S. Ribber, Abel Bill, Freeman Satterlee, William Stokes, Levi Macomber, Gordon B. Bently, Samuel V. Carpenter, John B. Potter, John C. Burgess, J. M. Fuller. Section 20—Solomon Satterlee, Warren Chapin, Morton Shearer, Jonathan Arnold, Daniel Fitzgerald, Samuel Road, Catherine Satterlee, William Stokes, Daniel H. Perkins, Whitney Jones, Allen D. Corey. Section 21—Ethan Satterlee, C. P. Bush, and C. A. Jeffreys. Section 22—Silas Saxten, Jerod Wilson, James Grant, Daniel Benson, Moses B. Hiss, Jessie A. Parker, George W. Peck. Section 23—

Daniel Ransom, James Grant, Henry M. Moore. Section 24—James T. Tallman, John R. Tallman, John Porter, William H. Saunders, J. D. and R. C. Miller, William Wells, Samuel Monroe. Section 25—William Wells, George Willson, J. Van Wormer, Leander Cole, Francis Crawford. Section 26—Leonard Kipp. Section 27—Isaac Young. Section 28—Ethan Satterlee, James Grant, Alonson D. Force. Section 29—Aaron G. Stockholm, Thomas Hay, Barron Weaver, Ashael K. Cole, George E. Case, J. K. Schoaten, Edwin Ranney, Richard D. Bently, Squire Cogswell. Section 30—John Ball, John Rossman, Horace D. Plato, G. H. Shons, Howel Ashly, Oscar M. Hall, John Rossman, Ashly Osgood, John Davis, William S. Switzer, Jacob Davis, John Davis, Lyman W. Luscom, John House, David Crawford, Charles Hanson. Section 31—John Rossman, E. E. Belding, Oscar M. Hall, Daniel E. Stokes, Newman Putney, David Dean, Helen Spaulding, J. Fletcher, Melissa W. Smith, Jacob Crawford, Edward Jackson. Section 32—Lewis D. Rhodes, William Slagt, John Ball, James Grant, Aaren G. Stockholm, Allen Thompson, James Kerr, Nathaniel Coons, James L. B. Kerr, Benjamin Caswell. Section 33—Orpheus Nelson, Edwin A. Hayden, Josiah Bradish, Henry Bevorce, Simon Root, Ezekiel Wood, James L. B. Kerr. Section 34—Stephen H. Warren, Rosecrans Divine, Westbrook Divine, Jesse Whitney, Aaron Weaver, H. Warren and R. Divine, Stephen H. Warren, James Grant. Section 35—John Riker, James Grant, Joseph Bailey, Jesse Whitney, Abner Wright, Roscrans Divine, John W. Follas, James Grant. Section 36—James Grant, Henry M. Moore, Morton Shearer, Leander Cole, Adam L. Roof, James Grant, Ira Porter, David Burnet, Rendall Woodard, Amos Josiah, William Russell.

CHAPTER XI.

EVERGREEN TOWNSHIP.

Evergreen township is one of the interior divisions of Montcalm county and is situated southeast from Stanton, the county seat. It is bounded on the north by Day township, on the east by Crystal, on the south by Bushnell and on the west by Sidney, and is designated on the government survey as township 10 north, range 6 west.

At the regular session of the board of supervisors held on the first Tuesday in March, 1856, a petition was presented bearing the signatures of the following freeholders of the township of Bushnell: Ira Rider, S. Allchin, C. Allchin, E. Allchin, Robert Bennett, W. Phinsey, Asa Griswold, James Griswold, Moses T. Bennett, William Griffin, Lyman Stevens and E. H. Stevens. These petitioners prayed that the honorable board divide said township of Bushnell and organize town 10 north, range 6 west, into a separate township to be called Evergreen. This petition was dated on January 12, 1856, and was published in the *Montcalm Reflector*, of Greenville. There were also the additional names of C. C. Bacon, Joseph Gallope, G. W. Stevens, J. Stevens, C. G. Tyler, C. W. Olmstead and Edwin Comstock on the original petition, which were not given in the *Reflector* notice.

The petition for the erection of this township was presented to the board of supervisors of the county by Ira Rider, at the time a representative from Washtenaw county, though a resident of this township. As the name indicates, it was selected on account of the prevailing kinds of timber found in this section.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES.

The first purchases of lands in the township were made upon the various sections as here indicated:

Section 1—Henry Crapo, William Crapo, David Montross, Lorenzo D. Montross, Israel E. Richardson, Aaron Clark. Section 2—Philip H. Martz, Henry H. Crapo, Robert Gregory, Snel C. Hinds, Emily J. Hinds. Section 3—Ambrose L. Soule, Henry H. Crapo, John W. Abbott, Emily J.

Hinds, Henry J. Kingsbury, Levi Harrod, David Curtis, Elisha L. Hill. Section 4—Ambrose L. Soule, John Walters, Alfred Richardson. Section 5—P. H. Chapin, Ambrose L. Soule, Frederick Hall. Section 6—Ambrose Soule, Frederick Hall. Section 7—Charles Bean, Ambrose L. Soule, Frederick Hall, Benjamin Fowle, William Paterson. Section 8—Charles Bean, Ambrose L. Soule, Eastman Colby, Horatio Peck, Philander Bennett, Richard Morgan, Sylvester Spencer, William Boyer. Section 9—Ambrose L. Soule, Frederick Hall, Alfred Richardson, John Walters, E. L. Frazer, P. R. Howe, G. B. Isham, Samuel Besseguie. Section 10—P. R. Howe, George B. Isham, Henry H. Crapo, John Wilkinson, Charles A. Cook, Louisa E. Richardson, Emily J. Hinds, Jerry Buckley, Henry Kingsbury, James Case, David Carter, Elish L. Hill. Section 11—Philip H. Martz, Henry H. Crapo, William H. Corbin, Charles A. Cook, Orlando Goolthite, Jacob B. Smith, William H. Whipple. Section 12—Oliver H. P. Goodwin, Joseph McCurdy, William S. Bills, F. M. Hinds, William Cramer. Section 13—Frederick Hall, Stephen F. Page, Oliver H. F. Goodwin, David G. Hoag, Lorenzo D. Smith, Chancey Case, William H. Whipple. Section 14—Frederick Hall, P. H. Martz, Samuel Greenhoe, Orlando Goolthite, William Whipple. Section 15—Stephen F. Page, David D. Hoag, Henry H. Crapo, Frederick Hall, John Wilkinson, Ezra Burgess, Levi Farbell. Section 16—Albert Van Vleck, Eastman Colby. Section 17—Jay Olmstead, Charles Bean, Charles Merrill, Ambrose L. Soule, David R. Chandler, Colby & Company. Section 18—Charles Merrill, Charles Bean, Colby & Company, Thomas Patterson, Ralph Collingwood, Isaac T. Baker. Section 19—Charles Merrill, Charles Bean, Jeremiah D. Gleason, L. B. Townsen, Jane Rodgers, Joseph D. Burgess, Margaret Decker. Section 20—Jay Olmstead, Charles Bean, Wallace Gleason. Section 21—Fitz Robinson, Stephen Robinson, Jay Olmstead, John T. Sherman, Stephen Page, Mary E. Chase. Section 22—Jay Olmstead, Joseph Scott, Ambrose L. Soule, Stephen F. Page, H. F. Deal, O. W. Holly, John Wolverton, C. C. Darling, Joseph Hanchett, A. C. Hanchett. Section 23—Frederick Hall, Peter Carr, Joseph Begole, Joshua Begole, L. B. Jennings, Gilbert Stover, John P. Place, Benjamin Soule, William Blake, S. P. Loomis, W. R. White, M. Greenhoe. Section 24—Aaron Brown, Persis Robinson, John M. Phelps, Jeremiah Van Nest, Frederick Hall, Benjamin Soule, Daniel Morton. Section 25—Daniel Morton, Jacob Fake, Charles Rawlson, Ira Lothrop, Louis S. Lovell, Charles Merrill. Section 26—Louis S. Lovell, Christopher Rice, Christopher Greenhoe, Charles Conklin, H. N. Jenks.

William Morgan, William R. Evans, John Arntz, Hampton Rich. Section 27—Emma Ripley, Ambrose L. Soule, Henry Arntz, George F. Case, Sanford North, Christopher Greenhoe, Vinson Darling, David Hall, William Scott, Albert Van Vleck, William E. Balcon, Hamilton Rich. Section 28—Jay Olmstead, Ambrose Soule, John B. Utter, Charles Richardson, Isaac Allen, George F. Case, Vinson Darling. Section 29—Jay Olmstead, William Thompson, Stephen F. Page, William Phinesey, Frederick Hall, John B. Utter, Robert Bennett. Section 30—Charles Merrill, Frederick Hall, William H. Waterhouse, Erastus P. Brown, Alfred C. Mitchell, William Goodwin, C. C. Darling, Henry W. Lewis, William Eaton, Edmond Hall. Section 31—Edwin Merrifield, Joseph P. Powell, Jeremiah D. Gleason, Frederick Hall, Thomas Bywater, Darwin Cleveland, Erastus P. Brown, C. C. Darling, Gilbert Cook. Section 32—Erastus P. Brown, William Tillotson, Frederick Hall, Richard Derrick, Thomas Bywater, Horace Caswell, Thomas L. Post. Section 33—William Morgan, F. Hall, R. D. Smith, Alfred V. Roosa, Thomas Bennett, W. F. Drake, John E. Morrison, Thadeus Hickok, Abel Bywater. Section 34—William F. Drake, William Morgan, Thadeus Hickok, William Carter, Imri Kinney, Oscar Talcott, Albert Van Vleck, Silas P. Loomis, E. M. Davis. Section 35—Nathaniel S. Benton, Louis S. Lovell, William Stone, Nathaniel Benton, Hiram Dunn, Sylvester Arntz, Thomas Dickinson, John Tyler, Silas P. Loomis. Section 36—John W. Prosser, Jonathan McElroy, Mortimer Gilco, Hugh Callahan, Louis S. Lovell, Ambrose L. Soule.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

The settlement of Evergreen began properly in 1848, when a saw-mill was commenced on section 21. It is asserted that the land upon which it stood was entered by Fite Rossman, and that he was the prime mover in the enterprise. Although he may have been connected with the mill he entered no land, and his connection with the company at most was of short duration. Even before this, and years after, he is remembered to have taken cattle to the rush beds of Gratiot county to winter and from this Jay Olmstead became connected with the mill property as early as 1849, and employed a man named Patrick to oversee it and his wife to keep the boarding house, which was the first dwelling house erected in the township. At one time, while looking for cattle, Patrick became belated in the woods. As night came on the distant howling of wolves gradually came nearer, and increased until he was aware that he was being surrounded. As it became

more difficult to pick his way homeward, he could see them crossing and recrossing his way in front, while a hungry pack were steadily coming nearer behind. Deeming, in view of these circumstances, discretion the better part of valor, he took to a tree, and through the night listened to the chorus of their voices. With the first break of day they dispersed, and he returned home, much to the relief of his wife, who had watched for his coming all night and had been similarly entertained. This family soon after left the mill, and William Castel was employed.

The mill next came into the possession of Ira Ryder, in 1854, who became one of Evergreen's most prominent citizens, and who owned it during the settlement of the most of this part of the county. He brought a wife and three children to the township. On the 21st of October, 1854, William Morgan and his brother-in-law, R. D. Smith, came in and found employment at the mill referred to. They worked here and at other mills until September, 1855, when William Morgan entered the east half of the northwest quarter of section 32. He built a cabin here, but owing to a mistake in the description or minutes of his land, lost his claim and improvements the following spring. He at once entered another piece, upon which he lived for a long time. R. D. Smith returned to the township and remained until entering the Union army.

The next settler was Robert Bennett, who settled on the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 29, and built his cabin in September, 1855. His house was the second built in the township aside from those at the mills. He did not bring his family from his former home in Northplain until the following spring.

In the winter of 1855-56 William Phinsey, from Orange, Ionia county, came in and built a small "shingle shanty" on land adjoining Mr. Bennett, to which he brought his family the following spring. He was a soldier of the Mexican War and also of the Rebellion.

FIRST TAXPAYER.

The township was regularly organized in the spring of 1856, and the first assessment roll bears only the following names: Ira Ryder, William Phinsey, Amos Setter, Robert Bennett, William Morgan.

During the summer several new settlers reached the township, among whom were Joseph Allen and two sons, Zene and Samuel, who located in section 28. He remained in Evergreen about fourteen years, when he disposed of his property and went to Bloomer.

In September, Mortimer Gilleo, from New York, came in and settled on section 36. Hugh Callahan settled on the same section a little later.

William Thompson moved from Northplain, where with his family, he had resided a number of years. His wife died on the way from England and was buried at sea. His family consisted of five children, four of whom were daughters. They settled near Phinsey lake, on the farm later owned by George Holland. William Thompson died in 1862, and his remains were the first interred in the cemetery on section 32. This cemetery was laid out on land owned by Augustus Derrick, from whom it was purchased by the township for twenty-five dollars. This sum was raised by direct taxation, and the condition upon which the vote passed and mentioned in the deed was that any resident of the township should have the privilege of selecting a lot when needed for burial purposes.

Augustus Derrick and his two sons came in 1856, and settled on section 32, where they resided a number of years. They subsequently moved to Muir. About this time Philemon Hoisington, Joel Washburn and George F. Case became residents. The latter engaged in lumbering. John Arntz settled in Bushnell in 1857. He had been a soldier of 1812, in the Pennsylvania Volunteers, under Captain Culverson, and stood guard over the magazine at Baltimore for forty-eight hours in succession during the campaign there. In common with the soldiers of that war he received a land warrant, with which he, in company with four sons, sought the frontier and located land on section 2, as before stated. In the War of 1861-65 his sons, John and Henry, took part. Sylvester Arntz, another of the four, came to Evergreen and purchased land of William Stone on section 35.

George Holland, a native of England, and formerly engaged in the mercantile business in Toronto, came to Evergreen for his health and engaged in the lumber business.

Evergreen did not escape the windfall of 1855 nor the frosts and fire of 1856. The consequent suffering which nearly depopulated other townships was experienced here in all its severity. True, these times are not now often referred to, for those who endured the toil and privations have all passed away. The fire swept through the township and, ere checked by the rains and snows of winter, destroyed nearly all the improvements of the settlers. The frosts of August left them without provisions for present wants, and without means to procure, even when possible, sustenance for themselves and cattle. Many families at once left the country, others had invested all their means in land and the necessary farming implements

and were compelled to remain. The wild hay and underbrush, upon which the cattle heretofore had wintered, was burned, and as a consequence the stock nearly all perished during the winter. Month after month wore away; provisions were very dear, a farm could not be mortgaged for sufficient to sustain a family a month. In many households cornmeal and water was the only food for many weeks, until at last the state voted aid, and the suffering was relieved. At this time Sylvester Arntz who still resides on his farm in the township went to Ohio, south of Toledo, and collected a small debt due his father, walking the entire distance both ways.

For several years Ionia, Palo and Greenville were the places patronized by the inhabitants of Evergreen. When the mills and stores were built at Amsden, that place being nearer, received considerable trade. The first store in the township was the one opened in Sheridan by Jonathan Forbes. The first blacksmith shop, and the only one for many years in Evergreen, was that of William Bells, who settled on the shore of Loon lake in an early day.

The first sermon preached in the township was by Elder John Van Vleck, of the Baptist church, at the home of Robert Bennett. He was followed by Elder Randall, who preached in the school house. This society did not then form a church. The Methodist Episcopal church organized a class a number of years afterward. Elder Swim being on the circuit, but it continued only a short time.

SHERIDAN.

Sheridan is located at the conjunction of four townships, Evergreen, Sidney, Bushnell and Fairplain. It lies on both sides of the state road which separates Evergreen and Sidney townships. It was incorporated by the Legislature on March 30, 1877. The population of the village in 1910 was 436, an increase of 58 since 1904.

In 1904, the date of the last official state census in Michigan, the population of 378 consisted of 191 males and 187 females; also, there were 362 native-born citizens and 16 foreign born. The ratio of foreign born and native born population probably does not differ much today from the ratio in 1904.

The first saw-mill in Sheridan was built and run by John Winsor, and it stood on the east shore of Bass, now Pearl lake. After a number of year this mill was destroyed by fire and Mr. Winsor then built another

mill, which he sold to Ham Stanton. A company subsequently was formed by Mr. Winsor and Charles and George Stanton. The first was afterwards dissolved and the mill purchased by D. T. Fargo. E. P. Brown, in the meantime, had built a shingle-mill and sometime after the erection of the shingle-mill, a saw-mill. With the decline of the lumber industry, the milling business at Sheridan disappeared.

The first dry-goods store at Sheridan was opened in 1864 by Jonathan Forbes in a little room in the wing of his dwelling, which was the first frame dwelling in Sheridan. Mr. Forbes was appointed postmaster and was the first citizen of the village to hold this position. He was succeeded in 1864 by Erastus P. Brown, who was appointed to the place on October 14, of that year. Charles H. Stanton succeeded Brown on August 10, 1869, and Edgar A. Clarke, July 24, 1874. Stanton was again appointed August 20, 1874, and served until March 19, 1877, when John S. Manning was appointed. Clifton H. Clement, who is one of the pioneers of the community and is still living at Sheridan, is one of the few Democrats before the present national administration, who has served as postmaster of the village. He was postmaster during Cleveland's second administration. George Holland is also a former postmaster of the village.

Some time after Jonathan Forbes opened his store at Sheridan, he enlarged his house for the accommodation of travelers, but afterwards sold it to Mr. Keene, who enlarged it further and called it the Keene House. This was the first hotel in the village. In the meantime, Lyman Smith, who owned the ground where the principal part of the village now stands, had begun the sale of lots, which was very rapid. The business interests of the town developed rapidly. The Keene House eventually came to be called the Keen Exchange, but it has long since been abandoned. For a number of years John Dolan conducted the Hotel Dolan, at Sheridan. The Hotel Dolan was, prior to the time Mr. Dolan obtained possession of it, the Davis House and during that period was owned by W. B. Davis. There are two hotels in Sheridan at the present time, the Central hotel, operated by T. C. Houghtaling, and the Sheridan hotel, operated by E. A. Rutherford. Frank Wilson, who ran the Hotel Wilson, is still living at Sheridan.

After Mr. Forbes' store, another store was opened in the building later owned by Lewis, who kept a hardware store in it. It was kept by O. S. Stebbins, who also served as one of the postmasters of the village. W. B. Stone, another early citizen of Sheridan, operated a store, shingle-mill and saw-mill for some years.

George W. Stanton, whose death occurred about 1905, was a prominent lumberman and farmer of Sheridan during his life. Dan T. Fargo, who was a lumberman and saw-mill operator, died about eight years ago. John W. Prestel, who was in the lumber business at Sheridan, and an extensive mill operator, died in December, 1914, at Payette, Idaho, and is buried there. E. J. Barkham and Jesse Summers operated a grist-mill at Sheridan for a long period. Summers died in 1905 and Barkham is still living at Sheridan. The grist-mill was torn down when the new elevator was built, in 1915.

C. H. Clement, who ran an elevator at Sheridan for some time, sold the elevator of E. A. Rutherford on August 14, 1910, and this elevator burned in 1915. Mr. Rutherford rebuilt on the same site with the old grist-mill, which he had purchased. Mr. Clement, who is a native of New York state, and a veteran of the Seventeenth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, came to Sheridan in 1883, and for a long time conducted a general mercantile store. He sold out to the J. G. Cutler & Company, March 27, 1905. J. P. Conley, who was in the elevator and produce business at Sheridan for many years, died at Seattle, Washington, in 1908, after he had gone there to regain his health. The elevator which Mr. Clement sold to E. A. Rutherford was purchased by Mr. Clement from Mr. Conley. Milford Gray, another of the early merchants of Sheridan, moved to Alma and died there about 1895. Andrew A. Greenhoe, who was also in the mercantile business at Sheridan many years, died there in 1907.

The present business people of Sheridan are as follow: R. E. Lower, J. G. Cutler Company and C. P. Leddick, general merchandise; A. E. Stebbins, furniture and undertaking. Mr. Leddick is also the present postmaster; A. M. Stebbins, jewelry, cigars and tobacco; A. M. Russell, hardware; W. H. Wood, druggist; A. E. Davis, groceries; S. E. Almack, groceries and notions; E. E. Thayer, confectionery; E. A. Rutherford, hotel, livery and elevator; T. C. Houghtaling, hotel; Genette Ford, millinery; Frank Sebring and Robert Harrigan, barbers; Sike Pitcher, pool room; F. M. Wycoff, produce; Eugene Rich and N. C. Caratensen, blacksmiths; R. A. Fuller, meats; J. C. Gallagher, motion picture show; George Edwards, coal, and E. E. Stoddard, editor and publisher of the *Sheridan Advertiser*.

The Sheridan fire department, which is a volunteer organization, has an equipment consisting of a hose cart and ladders. The main streets are well kept and the sidewalks are made of cement. The village is electrically lighted. There are no industries of any great proportions in Sheridan, though Albert McGuire & Company have a salting station in the village.

Practicing physicians at Sheridan include Drs. L. E. Bracey and W. E.

Lee. Dr. Ed Perkins is a veterinary surgeon. Dr. R. H. Blaisdell and Dr. S. M. Gleason were two of the early physicians of the village, but both are now deceased.

Wesley Stearns and Harmon W. Taylor have both filled county offices. The former resides near Sheridan on a farm. He served two terms as treasurer of Montcalm county. The latter served one term as county clerk. Ephraim Follett, school teacher and lawyer, who came from Bellevue to Sheridan and who died at Sheridan a few years ago, at an advanced age, was a well-known and prominent citizen.

The present officials of the village of Sheridan include Elmer E. Stoddard, president of the village; Bert Crawford, clerk; Edward Greenhoe, treasurer, and Watson Courter, assessor. The trustees of the village are E. A. Rutherford, William Rassmussen, George Edwards, Ed Holmes, Zary Greenhoe and Hiram Taylor. A. E. Stebbins is the present postmaster.

FISHVILLE.

Fishville is a small hamlet located in the central part of section 14. At one time a saw-mill was located here, which was the beginning of a settlement in this place. A store was also kept for the convenience of the mill hands. The present store in Fishville is owned by Robert Evans, and as there is no other store in the township closer than Sheridan and Stanton, Mr. Evans carries on a good country trade. A huckster wagon is also run from Fishville over a scheduled route for the convenience of the country people.

CHAPTER XII.

FAIRPLAIN TOWNSHIP.

Fairplain was the second township established in Montcalm county and the initial step for the organization of this township was taken before the official organization of the county was made. The petition for the erection of this township was drawn in the fall of 1849 and presented to the Legislature and it was properly acted upon and duly erected on March 28, 1850, and the first election was called on the first Monday in April, 1850. The meetings which were held for the steps towards organizing this township and selecting a suitable name present a rather humorous side and are here related by one of the early settlers: "The inhabitants of this territory met in the fall of 1849 for the purpose of selecting a name, preparatory to being organized into a new township the following spring. As is usual in such meetings there was a multiplicity of names, and, as usual also, every one thought his name the most appropriate. A committee was appointed, however, to draw up a petition, and signers to it were secured whereby the Legislature was prayed to set off town 9 north, range 7 west, as the 'Township of Ringgold.' It was intended when the name was proposed to name it after Major Ringgold, whose bravery in the Mexican War was still fresh in the minds of the people. But the committee, intentionally or otherwise, omitted one 'g' in order to gain time. As a motion would then be necessary to change the name, at a subsequent meeting, this motion was passed, but the chairman of the committee, Nelson Cole, by the advice of several parties, among whom was John Hamilton, instead of inserting the missing letter, inserted the name Fairplain. The petition was forwarded, and in due time, to the astonishment of every one, and the chagrin of those petitioners who wanted the name of Ringgold, the township of Fairplain was erected."

Fairplain is situated in the southern part of Montcalm county and is bounded on the north by Sidney township, on the south by Ionia county, on the east by Bushnell township and on the west by Eureka. It originally consisted of timbered tracts on the northern, eastern and southern portion, while the plains, rendered almost circular by the general direction of Dickinson creek, consist of the most fertile and productive oak openings. Since

the timber has been removed this entire area has been turned into an agricultural community and the entire section of land rivals any in the county. These farms are among the fairest and most fertile tracts in the state. This is evinced by the high state of cultivation under which the farms are at present, the good public buildings and the comfortable homes.

Dickinson creek is the only stream of any importance in this township. It enters the township from the west of section 6, and meandering east, south and west, leaves the township near the southwest corner. A small stream enters the township from Sidney and unites with Dickinson creek. These streams furnish excellent natural drainage for the township and also served the early pioneers in water power to run the early mills.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES.

Those who purchased from the general government lands situated in this township are shown in the following list. Many did not become settlers, others did, but remained only for a brief period, while among others are the names of some of the most respected citizens of the township at the present time.

Section 1—Chester Coates, Alanson R. Cornell, Levi Grainard, Spencer Skeels, Erastus P. Brown, Edmond Hall. Section 2—Erastus P. Brown, Merritt Wade, Valancourt Northrup, Norman Hamilton, Daniel L. Welch, Emanuel Royer, David Ford, David M. Hickok, Peter Thompson. Section 3—E. Hall, John Snow, Clayburn Harris, George W. Gregory, R. Helton, David Balde, Lydia B. Taylor, Joel and William Hall, Frederick Hall, David Ford. Section 4—Joseph C. Bailey, John W. Anderson, E. B. Burrington, John Porter, Osmond Tower, Henry F. Brayton. Section 5—Henry F. Brayton, Joel and William Hall, Thomas Seeley, Charles O. Reed, Daniel R. Hartwell, Myron Laverty, Daniel Tomlinson. Section 6—John S. Willson, Betsey Willson, James Grant, Charles O. Reed, R. Hilton, C. B. White, Wesley Smaggard. Section 7—William M. Porter, George Loucks, Norman Hamilton, E. H. Sherwood, David Wilson, F. Rossman, Benoni Bentley, John S. Wilson. Section 8—Myron Laverty, David R. Hartwell, Dewitt C. Chapin, David Morris, Francis K. Getter, James B. St. John, Miner Porter, James Porter. Section 9—Mathias Smith, James Grant, Philo Townsend, Henry Holford, Henry M. Moore, Abel Avery, George Mathews, F. B. Peck. Section 10—George Mathews, Asa Houghton, Osmond Tower, Frederick Hall, Enos T. Peck, Aaron A. Dudley, E. B. Barrington, Daniel Austin, David Balde. Section 11—David Balde, Aaron M. Gaylord, Martin

Follett, T. G. Amsden, Simon E. Allen, Abijah Noyes, Erastus P. Brown, Nathan Johnson, C. E. Shephard, William R. Bates, Isaac Throop. Section 12—Chancey Beckwith, Aaron M. Gaylord, John Shilling, Thomas Patterson, Calvin Palmer, Thomas Cornell, Walter H. Wright, David Balde, Hiram Hathaway. Section 13—Chancey Beckwith, Aaron M. Gaylord, John Shilling, James Gould, John A. Rashbuck, David Balde, Henry H. Scoville, Moses M. Hull, Alonzo Hubbell, John Shilling, Henry Holford, Humphrey Holford, Charlotte M. Gould. Section 14—Abel Avery, Louis Smith, Isaac B. Cadwell, Alonzo Hubbell, David Balde, John W. Balde. Section 15—Asa Houghton, E. B. Harrington, Frederick Hall, Orin Chapin, Caleb Huffin, Edward G. Decker, Freeman A. Decker, Zimri Moon, Henry Holford, Tyler M. Burley, Ebenezer Salyer, Gerard Willson. Section 16—Josiah Bradish, John N. Voorhies, John Lindell, David Barnes, William M. Shepard, N. J. Shepard, Mary Ann Rose, David Balde, Josiah Bradish. Section 17—John P. Knapp, Darius A. Wilmarth, Ira Porter, Christopher Cornis, Richard Porter. Section 18—James Porter, Minor Porter, Ira Porter, Dewitt C. Chapin. Section 19—Daniel W. Tomlinson, William Kitts, Sarah Case, George W. Sherwood, Ira Porter. Section 20—Ira Porter, Caleb Kniffin, Richard Porter, Sarah Case, Richard Tom, Adam Roof. Section 21—Adam L. Roof, Samuel P. Youngman, Ebenezer Salyer, Ira Porter, Luther R. Jenks, James Grant, Freeman A. Decker, Edward G. Decker. Section 22—John F. Wyman, Caleb Kniffin, J. Willson, Marietta Clark, John Patrick. Section 23—Erastus Brown, George Mathews, George W. Paul, Sylvanus Weed, Philo Beers, Joseph P. Powell, Miles Porter, Charles Chambers, Charles Bisby, Seth C. Barnes, John H. Child. Section 24—William P. Johnson, Edward Cheny, Edward Decker, William H. Hall, Thomas Patterson, Calvin Palmer, Thomas Brown, William F. Goff, William H. Ieman, Stephen Brown. Section 25—William H. Linfield, David J. Gleason, George B. Fuller, Daniel B. Hibbard, Thomas J. Blackwell, W. H. Rumsey, David Gristwood, Mathew Gore, Simon Gristwood, Moses Bennett. Section 26—C. Shepard, D. Bald, Charles Chambers, Charles Bisby, John C. Ball, Joseph B. Powell, Hiram Clark, Ald Avery, Norman J. Shepard, Hiram Bristol, Sally Harrington, Clarence Gavitt. Section 27—James J. Breese, Hiram Bristol, Ira Porter, Cyrus Lovell, Joseph P. Powell, Joseph C. Bailey, James Grant, George Mathews. Section 28—James Grant, Gerard Willson, John F. Wyman, Joseph C. Bailey, Samuel P. Youngman. Section 29—Samuel P. Youngman, James Grant, Daniel W. Tomlinson, Charles Grant, Samuel Dowley, Sarah J. Noyes, Lewis E. Smith. Section 30—

Francis Crawford, William Kitts, Ira Porter. Section 31—William Wells, Richard Dye, Frederick Hall, John Almy, Thomas Cornell, Alexander N. Loomis, Ira Porter, William Meguignon. Section 32—O. Smith, W. Tompkins, James M. Kidd, Ira Porter, Clarence Gavitt, Joseph C. Bailey, Charles A. Smith, Bostwich Leech, Jesse Leech, J. L. Fields. Section 33—Charles Alehin, O. Smith, George Davis, Henry McGlockine, Ira Olds, George W. Paul. Section 34—Samuel King, George W. Paul, John P. Salyer, Louis Smith, Norman G. Cornell, Abel Avery, William J. Face, Sally Harrington. Section 35—David S. Jenks, John Knowlton, Abel Avery, William Osterhaut, William M. Clark, Spencer Hewitt, Joseph P. Powell. Section 36—Solomon Bacon, Samuel C. Alderman, Ora B. Stiles, Hawley White, Lucinda Schambling, Rosalier Comstock, Joel Soule.

THE HAMILTON FAMILY.

In the month of April, 1844, Benjamin Hamilton, assisted by his son, John Hamilton, set out from Lyons with five yoke of oxen and three wagons, loaded with the families and household goods of William Hamilton (another son) and George Gibson, both married, the latter having a large family of children. Previous to this time they had visited the township, and it is not strange they were delighted with the beautiful plains which afterwards gave the township its name. A large tract of land had been entered by Ira D. Porter, a lawyer in Ionia and connected with the land office in that place. To him they applied and purchased, Gibson buying the south half of the southeast quarter of section 18, and Hamilton taking the west half of the southwest quarter of section 17. These lands were bought on part payment, a bond being given for the balance to be paid in three years.

After purchasing the land the two men raised the body of a log house near the southwest corner of Hamilton's land. Then they returned to Lyons. When the party before spoken of reached Kiddville, the road terminated, and from this place their journey was slow and wearisome. During the last day of their journey the rain poured down almost incessantly, and the entire party, drenched and uncomfortable, the men wading along through the mud and slush of April, the women and children shivering in the wagons, reached the body of the house before referred to in the middle of the afternoon. The house was without a roof, floor, door, window or fireplace, and the bare logs promised little shelter from the inclemency of the weather. It was a gloomy prospect for the whole party, and a cold and cheerless one for the

women and children. But while some were engaged in taking the wagon boxes apart and placing the boards in one end of the cabin—if such it may be called—as a shelter for them, Mr. Hamilton succeeded in building a large fire in the middle of the cabin. He watched it all night, adding fuel when necessary. The next morning being clear, a team was dispatched to get a load of lumber, which had been brought to the township by a man who had purchased a part of the northwest quarter of section 19. This man had purchased this land intending to build a house, marry and bring his young wife to Fairplain. But being aware, it seems, of the uncertainty of matrimonial bonds, he concluded to marry first and build a house afterward. His misgivings seem to have been well founded, for his wife refused to become a pioneer. He therefore disposed of this lumber, which furnished means to partly cover the cabin of William Hamilton.

The lumber to complete it was brought from Kidd's mill, which had been in operation but a short time. This was the first dwelling built by a settler in the township. The two families lived in the cabin and the men generally worked together. They cleared and broke up a small piece of ground for a garden, and later planted a small lot to corn. The garden yielded abundantly, but an early frost killed the corn, which was not yet mature, having been planted late in the season. The same summer (1844) Silas Ward, who had entered the west half of the northwest quarter of section 21, came in and boarded with them while he prepared a considerable tract, which he sowed to wheat in the fall, but, not being fenced, was entirely destroyed the next spring by the deer, which sometimes in herds roamed over the plains. The land at this time sowed to wheat was later owned by N. Johnson, and his buildings stood where the first wheat grew in Fairplain township.

In the spring of 1845, George Gibson built a cabin on his land and moved his family into it. This cabin was the second built in the township. Mr. Gibson died in 1851. His wife subsequently moved to Lyons where she died. Hiram and Richard were the last members of the family living who came to this township with their parents. William Hamilton remained but three years, when he removed to Orleans, Ionia county. His brother, John Hamilton, who had been to the township several times since the eventful night of the first settlement, came in the month of March, 1845, with a wife and four children, intending to remain permanently. He occupied the same house with his brother. The Hamiltons subsequently sold their claim to this land to T. M. Burley, who came in 1846. The barn built was the

first frame barn in the township. John Hamilton and his wife later lived on the south part of section 7, and were the oldest residents of the township, at the time of their death.

The next settler was Jerry Halford, who, with his family, came in 1845, and settled on land later owned by J. P. Shoemaker, and described as the north half of the northwest quarter of section 15. Halford built a small cabin and improved the land around it.

JOSEPH DECKER, PIONEER.

The same year Joseph Decker and his sons, Oliver and Freeman, who were married, and Edward and Jesse, single men, reached the township. They settled on the northeast quarter of section 21. Oliver and Freeman, with their families, occupied a house which stood near the house of P. Barnes, while the other family dwelt in a house near the site occupied by the house of Charles Barnes. In the month of June, 1846, a daughter, the wife of Samuel Johnson, who came with them, died, and was buried near the line between the father and sons and about forty rods from the road. It is believed her remains were afterward removed. This was the first death in Fairplain. Of this family, Oliver resided in Orleans, Ionia county, for a number of years. William Porter, who settled near the town line, and on section 7, whose brothers settled in Eureka, came in among the first in the western part of the township. A part of this land subsequently came into the possession of A. J. Russell, whose father, at a very early day, was connected with the building of the first mill in Greenville. He sold his interest in this, and then came to Fairplain and bought large tracts of land, but the family remained only a few years.

From 1845 to 1850 there was a continual inflow of people until the greater part of the fertile plains became permanently settled. Tyler M. Burley and his brother, Myron, came in in the spring of 1856, and purchased their interest in the quarter upon which they settled. Myron Burley married Alice Wilcox. This was one of the first weddings in Montcalm county. Mr. Burley went to California during the gold excitement of 1849 and died there. His widow subsequently married and lived in Grand Rapids. In the same spring Roswell Dudley came and settled, with his wife and family, on the south half of the southwest quarter of section 15. Of his three children none now remain in the township.

The following summer Mrs. Betsy Wilson, a widow with a large family of children, four of whom were boys, named respectively David, John,

Thomas and William, came and entered the west half of the northwest quarter of section 8, while her son John and son-in-law, Myron Lavery, entered the south half of the southeast quarter of the same section which was later owned by James Griffith, who came in and settled in 1859. Mrs. Wilson remained until the spring of 1880, when she went to Red Cloud, Nebraska, with her sons. Caleb Kniffen also came into the township in 1859 from Macomb county, Michigan, and settled on land later owned by John Rasmussen. Kniffen reared a large family of children.

It is thought that Joel Saunders and William Weed also came that year. Saunders bought a half section, while Weed settled on section 7. After the death of his wife he moved with the remainder of his family to Ionia county. Conspicuous among the names of those who came the following year are Ebenezer Salyer and George Lunn. The latter was from England. His voyage to this country in an old sailing craft which was condemned on its return to England as unseaworthy was fraught with dangers now unknown on the sea. The trip, owing to the contrary winds, lasted thirteen weeks. Lunn arrived in Detroit eighty-five years ago, in 1830. It was then a promising village of a few hundred inhabitants. The streets were almost impassable and the little log shanties of the French and Indians presented a sorry spectacle. He remained in Wayne county for a time, and subsequently in Macomb and Oakland counties, where he purchased a farm, and in course of time exchanged it with William Tann, who owned the south half of the southeast quarter of section 20. With his wife and family, Mr. Lunn reached Fairplain township on the 8th of June, 1847. Soon after, being an authorized local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church, he organized and conducted the services of the first religious society in the township, and was ever closely identified with its interests.

Ebenezer Salyer settled the east half of the southeast quarter of section 21. It is believed that Thomas Seeley, who entered a tract of land, began during the summer of 1847 to erect the first saw-mill in the township. It occupied the site where the mill in the southeast part of section 5, on Dickinson creek, later stood. But it was very different from it in its mechanical structure, machinery, etc. The saw was not circular but perpendicular, and sawed as if there was danger of an oversupply of lumber. It had a capacity, if kept at its best, of three to four thousand feet per day. But it answered for a time every purpose, and furnished lumber for the cabins of the early settlers, which have long since become pleasant and prosperous homes. The mill subsequently passed into other hands and was destroyed by fire.

LAND SPECULATORS.

As has been intimated, the settlement of Fairplain from 1846 was rapid. But many settlers came into the township, and after making slight improvements, removed, some from discouragements, but usually the finer portions of the township were entered by speculators, who sold them at an advance to settlers, taking almost their last dollar as first payment and allowing them three years in which to pay the balance. It was usually impossible to meet this payment, and, as a consequence, many lost not only what they had paid but also the improvements which they had been obliged to make in order to live, and then left the township poorer than when they entered it, while the speculators always profited by these losses, as the lands reverted to them and they placed an additional per cent to the selling price. But the abundant crops which the fertile soil produced when fairly tested, the ease of clearing and tilling, were qualities soon appreciated, and men of means were soon attracted to make their home permanently within its limits.

In 1846, John D. Fargo and his brother, James Fargo, who became a resident of Eureka, came to the township from New York, of which state they were natives. They purchased two hundred and forty acres of land from William Kitts, who had entered it but who was not a resident of the township. Eighty acres of this land was situated on section 30. The balance, on the southwest quarter of section 13, was later occupied by L. H. Pratt, one of the earliest settlers in Montcalm county.

John D. Fargo and his brother, Gibson S. Fargo, who arrived shortly after, built the first permanent school building in the township, which was known until it was destroyed as the "Red School house." Gibson S. Fargo died on December 28, 1850, and was interred in the little cemetery on the west line of section 20. The ground comprised in this cemetery was given to the township in 1850 by Josiah Russell, an old settler in that vicinity. He was county judge and a native of New York, but his people were among the pioneers of Oakland county. The land upon which he settled and which he subsequently bought, was owned by George Loucks, from whom he purchased it. During the Civil War he enlisted and served three years in the First Regiment, Michigan Engineers and Mechanics.

William Rasmussen, from New York, came to Fairplain on the 6th of June, 1849. He came to the log cabin of Mrs. Wilson with a wife and eight children, three of whom were boys, named William, Henry and John. He bought the west half of the northwest quarter of section 17, and also

the east half of the northeast quarter of the same section. Mr. Rasmussen bought of John Knapp, who had intended to settle in Fairplain, but when he returned to New York his wife refused to move to "far-off Michigan." Knapp therefore, sold to Rasmussen.

In 1851, B. B. Crawford, a native of Livingston county, New York, arrived. Mr. Crawford became a settler of Macomb county, Michigan, in 1834. When he settled in Fairplain he purchased two hundred acres of land from Dewitt C. Chapin. George Loucks, Rufus K. Moore, Fite Rosman, Richard C. Miller, Luther Jenks, Josiah Russell, Joel Hall, Mark Diffen, Josiah Bradish and Orra B. Stiles, were among the pioneers reaching the township during the years 1849 to 1853.

Rufus K. Moore and George Gibson built a saw-mill below Amsden, on Dickinson creek, at what was known as Podunk, about the year 1850. Richard C. Miller purchased the west half of the northwest quarter of section 18. He was treasurer of Fairplain from 1855 to 1865. He later resided in Greenville until his death. In 1855, Elijah Pierson settled upon the east half of the northeast quarter of section 27. O. Bradley was also a resident of Fairplain. He settled in Ionia county in 1850 and was at one time engaged in the lumber business, and purchased the McGinley mill property.

James Griffith, one of Fairplain's good citizens, purchased the south half of the southeast quarter of section 6, which he highly improved.

RESIDENTS IN 1850.

The following is a list of resident taxpayers of the township in 1850, according to the assessment roll:

Sec- tions. Acres.		Sec- tions. Acres.	
Alanson Adams -----5, 8	81	Roswell Dudley -----10	8c
Hiram Amsburg -----15	8c	Edward Decker -----15, 21	8c
Josiah Bradish -----15	4c	Oliver Decker -----15, 21	8c
David C. Church -----9	120	Freemont Decker -----21	4c
Nelson Cole -----9	4c	John Fargo -----19, 30, 31	28c
W. M. Clark -----35	16c	Daniel Fargo -----	Personal
Dewitt Chapin -----8, 18	204	John Hamilton -----7	8c
Tyler M. Burkey -----15, 17	120	Joel Hall -----8, 3	42
Myron Burley -----15, 17	120	William Hall -----5	4c
Marquis T. Brower -----8	3	Spencer Hewitt -----35	9c

	Sec- tions.	Acres.		Sec- tions.	Acres.
David Jenks -----	35	155	Myron Savery -----	5, 6	10c
Luther Jenks -----	21, 22	114	Joel Saunders -----	13, 18	24c
Caleb Kniffen -----	15, 20	200	Westley Swager -----	6	4c
Austin Kinney -----	7	8c	Chancey E. Shepard -----		
W. V. Kendrick -----	4, 5, 8	312	-----	3, 4, 10, 15	80c
George Lunn -----	20, 28	16c	Philo Townsend -----	9	80
Gibson & Moore -----	23	8c	Nelson Towsley -----	8	77
Rufus K. Moore -----			Edward Sherwood -----	7	4c
George Gibson -----			Abijah Peck -----	9	4c
William Porter -----	7	12c	Orin Phelps -----	5	4c
William Rossman -----	17	16c	David Wilson -----	7	8c
Datus Russell -----	4	8c	William Weed -----	7	4c
Ebenezer Salyer -----	21, 28	120	Davis Wilmouth -----	17	16c

These lands were all situated in town 9 north, range 7 west, except one hundred sixty acres belonging to Joel Saunders, being the northeast quarter of section 13, town 9 north, range 8 west, now the town of Eureka.

FENWICK.

Fenwick, which is located in the northwestern part of section 25, in Fairplain township, and on the Pere Marquette railroad, was platted on May 22, 1874, for Simon M. Griswold, Sarah and David Griswold, proprietors, by S. C. Aderman, surveyor. Fenwick began its existence with the above mentioned railroad and has proved a good trading point for this section. The first reverse that Fenwick really suffered was in 1903 when fire broke out which laid waste one-half of the town. Fenwick now has a population of a hundred persons. There are two churches, a lodge and a graded school located here. There are four stores, two of which are conducted by Robert Chapman and J. C. Thompson, who is also the postmaster. Walter Root conducts the hardware store. Fenwick, owing to its location, has become the largest village in the township.

SHANTY PLAINS.

This settlement, located in the southeastern part of Fairplain did not commence until several years after the settlement on the west side of the river. It received its name from the many frail dwellings which during

one summer, were erected here. It is now impossible to determine who was the first settler, as a number came in and remained but a short time and then removed. But it is probable that William M. Clark, who settled on section 35, was the first. He sold a piece of the land upon which he settled to a Mr. Conkwright, who remained a few years. Welis Clark, who also came in early, sold a piece of land to Peace Robohen, who died some years after. Ora B. Stiles settled here at an early date. About the year 1850 a little cabin of tamarack poles was built on section 35, and several terms of school were conducted in it, but when or by whom is shrouded in the mist of forgetfulness. This cabin was used until 1854 when it was replaced by a frame building. Hawley White, whose parents settled in Jackson county in 1835, entered the east half of the northeast quarter of section 36 in 1853. The next year he brought his wife and two children. Mrs. White died in 1863.

AMSDEN.

The village of Amsden was not regularly laid out until 1867, although for many years previous to that time considerable business of various branches had been successfully carried on here. A saw-mill was first erected about the year 1850. In 1859, J. P. Shoemaker and M. P. Follett built the grist-mill at this place. It was the first flouring-mill (outside of Greenville) built in the county, and for a number of years gave Amsden a decided advantage over other prospective towns springing up in the vicinity. The settlers for many miles from the north came here to mill and to trade. This was the prosperous period in its history, and the principal part of the village was built at this time. When, however, the railroad was constructed from Ionia to Sheridan, and another to Greenville and to Gowen, the prospects of Amsden, like those of Langston, were considered much less promising. The saw-mill of R. H. Roice & Company had a capacity of thirty thousand feet per day, while the shingle-mill in connection with it had a capacity of fifty thousand.

J. P. Shoemaker, the founder of the village, was born in Herkimer county, New York. For over twenty years he had been a resident and identified with the business interests of the township, later being elected state senator of this district.

Amsden was platted for J. P. Shoemaker and twelve others, by E. H. Jones, surveyor. It is located in the central part of section 15. Amsden experienced an unchecked growth until the coming of the railroad which passed a mile to the east. With the coming of the Pere Marquette on the

east side of the township, Fenwick sprang up and began to draw on Amsden's resources.

There was a mill located at Amsden with a store in connection, but as Fenwick grew, Amsden gradually went down until at present it only exists as a cluster of houses. There are no business interests in the village.

Situated two miles to the north and west of Amsden is Millers Station. This is located on the Grand Trunk railroad and now consists of a depot, and one store, the latter being owned by Mr. Hansen. Miller has never been platted.

CHAPTER XIII.

FERRIS TOWNSHIP.

Ferris township lies in the northeastern part of Montcalm county and is bounded on the north by Richland, on the east by Gratiot county, on the south by Crystal and on the west by Day township. It is described on the government survey as township 11 north, range 5 west. When first organized into a separate township, Ferris contained townships 11 and 12 north, ranges 5 and 6 west, of the latter range only the east half was incorporated in this township. These were later detached and formed the separate townships of Day, Richland and Home, leaving Ferris with its present limits.

A petition was presented to the board of supervisors bearing the signatures of the following undersigned freeholders of Montcalm township: Philander A. Peck, Sylvester Fuller, Jackson Cato, Frank S. Peck, J. D. Sterns, Silas Brown, Barney Bigler, F. L. Smith, Daniel Gallop, Seth Smith, A. H. Monroe, John Churchill, Samuel F. Burtch, Nilson Lee, Franklin Stiles, John T. Miller, Lucian Lewis, Eli Smith, N. B. Scott, Arch Conner, William G. Carpenter, M. Douglass, George Sherman, Christopher Hare and H. Hubbell. These petitioners prayed that township 11 and 12 north, range 5 west, and the east half of town 11, 12 north, range 6 west, be set off from the township of Montcalm to be organized into a separate township and to be known by the name of Ferris. It was further provided in this petition that the first annual township meeting be held at the house of N. B. Scott, and that N. B. Scott, M. Douglass and L. Lewis be appointed a board of inspectors at said meeting.

This petition was duly considered by the board of supervisors and passed on January 5, 1857, thereby creating the new township of Ferris as prayed by the petitioners. The date set for the first meeting of the township for election of officers was held on April 6, 1857, at such place and with such inspectors as desired by the petitioners.

The township of Ferris is divided into two nearly equal parts by a ridge or watershed, which in places is well defined, extending through the center of the township north and south, thus producing on either side distinct basins.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES.

Section 1—Aloney Rust, Peter Schlappé, Michael K. Strayer, Baron Blanchard. Section 2—Aloney Rust, David W. Rust, Ambrose L. Soule, Chester Baxter. Section 3—Ambrose L. Soule, Albert Washburn, Michael Riddle, Jr., John S. Ford, Stephen D. Frances, Josiah L. Zuver, Jacob Schoonover. Section 4—David Eschliman, George Reomjard, Samuel Corder, Rodolph Howry, William Miller, James Harrod, Levi Harrod, Gilbert L. Cordu. Section 5—William Miller, John Criso, P. R. Howe, G. B. Isham, Levi Harrod, John Criss, Daniel Abrey, Emma A. Ripley, Edmund Hall, C. W. Butler, E. W. Sparrow, William M. Murray. Section 6—H. R. Woodworth, Elias Hardy, Peter H. Watson, Phineas Smith. Section 7—Lawson Ferris, James R. Stall, Lucene Buck, Edward Tishue, E. L. Hill, Edmund Hall. Section 8—Benjamin F. Luther, Mary M. Ferris, James G. Garrison, Levi Harrod, William H. Osborn, A. A. Brockway. Section 9—Amasa Wilder, John Reinhard, David Eschliman, William Moor, Joseph M. Face. Section 10—James Sanders, Amasa Wilder, John Moyer, Samuel J. Bailey, John Russell, Samuel Donley, Isaac Bennett, Albert Ferris. Section 11—Aloney Rust, Archibald Conner, Micajah Douglass, Arch Connor, Chester Baxter, George Shaw, Jacob Kuster. Section 12—Aloney Rust, David W. Rust, Peter Schlappi, Micajah Douglass, George Sherman, Ebenezer Sherman. Section 13—Louis Luther, Benjamin F. Luther, Micajah Douglass, Eleazer Johnson, Robert Southwell, Elijah Ferris, Thomas Crofford, Samuel Burtch, Micajah Douglass, Abel A. Brockway, Wellington R. Rust. Section 14—Elijah Ferris, Micajah Douglass, Eleazer Johnson, Chester Bill, Peter Schlappi, George Shaw, John D. Snyder, Emanuel Hissary, John B. Strait, Franklin D. Norris. Section 15—Hezekiah Hubbell, Martin Chaffee, Garrett Coolbaugh, Isaac Tishue, Samuel J. Bailey, John A. Dorr, Albert Ferris, James S. Davis. Section 16—Andrew J. Tishue, Christopher Hare, William Crockford, Erastus Throop, William H. H. Morehead, Solomon B. Knapp, Christopher Hare, Althea Smith. Section 17—Richard Dye, John Mauser, John Arntz, James G. Garrison, Nathaniel Smith, Charles K. Marsh, Dewitt C. Lewis, William Allen. Section 18—Charles B. Wilson, Franklin Stiles, Samuel Pine, Eli Smith, John Arntz, Charles B. Bangham, Benjamin F. Stiles, William H. H. Moorehead. Section 19—Charles B. Wilson, Erastus Yeomans, Lucian Lewis, John L. Miller. Section 20—Richard Dye, Erastus Yeomans, Elias Salisbury, Amos Classon, Peter H. Watson, Nathaniel Smith, Lafayette Peters. Sec-

tion 21—Patrick Curry, John Berie, Elizabeth Warner, Andrew Burer, Peter H. Watson, Christopher A. Packard. Section 22—Nathan B. Scott, James Scott, Robert Wool, Jr., Elizabeth Warner, John D. Snyder, John M. Kelvey. Section 23—Aloney Rust, David W. Rust, Elijah Ferris, Chester Baxter, Samuel H. Comstock, Daniel Strayer, Samuel Comstock, George Sherman. Section 24—Aloney Rust, David Rust, Horace Lansing, Samuel Burtch. Section 25—G. S. Bill, Aloney Rust, Ezra Fuller, Jacob Klees, George Stratton, Abel A. Brockway, Nickolos Klees, James Hicks. Section 26—Aloney Rust, Ambrose Soule, John Raynur, John M. Reinhart, John G. Taubert, John M. Kelvey. Section 27—Thomas Byrne, John Raynur, Hezekiah Hubbell, Adam Gass, Thomas Burne, Thomas Crawford, Robert Southwell, John McKelvey, Grafton Reid. Section 28—Francis F. Hawkins, William Toynton, Elias M. Heath, Abram Van Horn, John Russell, Bradley A. Brown, George W. Sover, Benjamin Magoon, Joseph Tishue. Section 29—John Smith, John M. Watson, John Ruperd, Nelson T. Dunshee, John M. Hancock. Section 30—Charles B. Wilson, Levi Carpenter, Israel E. Richardson, William Madison, William Kelly. Section 31—John Harrod, Israel E. Richardson, George Hancock, Cyrus D. Dunshee, Stephen W. Tompkins, Thomas Raymond, Charles Litch, Myron Austin, William E. Leitch. Section 32—David Woner, Ephraim Trim, James Tissue, Egbert L. Heath, Adam A. Flint, Myron Austin, Jacob Lemasters, Isaac R. Packard, William Madison. Section 33—Ambrose L. Soule, Limon Rice, Asahef Buck, Francis F. Hawkins, John Watts, Isaac Wandell, Adam A. Flint, Myron Austin, Simon Rice, Myron Austin, William Davis. Section 34—Ambrose L. Soule, Simon Rice, Dolphus Byrne, Thomas Byrne, Julius R. Comstock, Simon Rice, Nelson H. Johnson, Daniel McArthur, Simon Rice, George G. Sherman. Section 35—David W. Rust, Harvey Westfall, Jesse Bodley, Ambrose Soule, Merritt Flint, Luke Flint. Section 36—Aloney Rust, Ambrose L. Soule, Martin Ginther, Christopher Ginther, Henry Waterbury, Robert Hucker, Daniel A. Corkins, Samuel Burtch, Seth Robinson.

FIRST SETTLEMENTS.

Elijah Ferris was the first settler in town 11 north, range 5 west. He had formerly resided upon a farm in Geauga county, Ohio, and was very much inconvenienced for the want of water. For this reason, when he sent his representative to select land in Montcalm county in May 15, 1853, his express directions were that a running stream must be one of the favorable considerations. This may account for the peculiar selection of his land

upon which he lived and died. In the fall of 1854, well equipped for the frontier, with a good team of horses, which soon after his arrival he exchanged for a yoke of oxen, with farming implements and household goods, he brought his wife, four sons and one daughter, to the township of Ferris. He entered, with several other tracts, the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 23, on which he built a log house. This was the first residence of a settler erected in the township. At this time the road known later as the Old Pine road was located, but was completed only a short distance above the lumber camp, which had already been located near the present site of Carson City. From this place to the land which he had entered, a distance of eight miles, Mr. Ferris, with the help of his sons, cleared a road. The distance was about eight miles in a bee-line, but his road winding as it did through the forests and around every conceivable obstacle, traversed at least a third of the distance farther. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Ferris returned to Ohio.

Asa Buck was the second settler and came on August 11, 1853. James Tishue was the third settler and located in Ferris, August 14, 1855. Archibald Connor, Robert Husker, Thomas and Rodolphus Burns, and Samuel T. Burch came in the winter of 1854-55. Burch and Husker were married men, the others were single. All became residents of the township for a longer or shorter period. The Burnses were natives of Ireland. Burch settled first on section 36, but subsequently cleared and lived upon a farm on section 24. He remained in the township until 1877, when with his family he moved to Idaho. He built a large part of the village of Crystal. Archibald Connor settled the north half of the southeast quarter of section 11.

Robert Husker settled on the east half of the northeast quarter of section 36. Nathan B. Scott, a native of Berkshire county, Massachusetts, moved with his father to Washtenaw county in 1830, where he lived until he came to Ferris township in 1855 and entered the northwest quarter of section 22, paying seventy-five cents per acre. He built a temporary house to which he brought his family, which consisted of a wife and four children. Mr. Scott made one of the first clearings, and planted some of the first crops in the township. He was drafted and served his time during the Civil War. Peter Schlappie built the first saw-mill in the township. It stood on Schlappie creek, on section 12. Previous to this time the lumber used by the settlers had been brought from Ryder's mill in Evergreen township.

Christopher Hare, from Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, moved to Sandusky county, Ohio, in 1835, whence he came to Michigan in 1843, and settled in Portland, Ionia county. From this place he came to Ferris and entered the southeast quarter of section 16, for which he paid four dollars per acre. In October, 1855, he brought his wife and nine children to the house previously built. He cleared the road from the cabin of Nathan Scott to this place. At the first town meeting Mr. Hare was elected clerk of the township, an office which he filled creditably many successive years. In 1880 he was the nominee on the National ticket for the office of county treasurer.

William Carpenter also reached the township in 1855. His house was made on a novel plan. Two large oak trees which stood about twelve feet apart were felled so that they lay nearly parallel. Into the trunk of each a row of holes were bored, and into these posts high enough to make the walls of the house were driven. Split shakes were nailed over them, and the roof made of the same material, his house, with a large fireplace in one end, was ready for occupancy. At one time Mr. Carpenter killed a bear, and invited two young men named H. C. Ferris and William Boody to dine with him. One of the logs, which in the meantime had been hewn to as near a flat surface as could be conveniently done with an ax, served as a table. Upon this in due time the smoking ham of a young bear was placed and the guests who sat on the outside of the house regaled themselves through the window to their entire satisfaction.

H. C. Ferris, the nephew of Elijah Ferris, came to the township with William Boody from Geauga county, Ohio. The latter, who was a splendid shot, came with only sport in view, and killed a great deal of game. He became poisoned while hunting in a swamp, and soon after left the township. Ferris remained until the next May, and then returned to Eaton county, where he married Louisa Blodgett, and in about two years again returned to Ferris.

Micajah Douglas came to Ferris in the fall of 1854, and entered four eighty-acre tracts in sections 11, 12, 13 and 14. He was born and reared in Monroe county, New York, and was not married until just before coming to the land which he had previously entered. He married Laura Sherman. They moved into the township on the 22d of March, 1856. Mr. Douglas was elected justice at the first town meeting. His daughter, Lydia Jane Douglas, was the first white child born in Ferris. She married Thomas J. Blair, who was in the mercantile business in Elm Hall, Gratiot county.

In the year of 1856, Jacob Klees, a native of Germany, came to Ferris. His family consisted of his wife, two sons and one daughter. He located on section 36. It is said that in an early day, when the family had walked to Matherton for the purpose of purchasing store goods and groceries, Mrs. Klees carried a barrel of flour to her home in Ferris. The tradition, no doubt, has not suffered from repetition; the fact which gave rise to it being that after father and son had been loaded with the flour taken from the barrel, Mrs. Klees, feeling that it would supply a want when added to the scanty furniture of her cabin, took it with what flour remained upon her shoulder and carried it the entire distance.

David Eschliman came to Ferris in 1867. He was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. His ancestors purchased one thousand seven hundred acres of land from William Penn, and his relatives, who became numerous, lived in that county. In 1834 his father moved to Stark county, Ohio.

REMINISCENCES.

In June, 1856, David Buck and Phoebe Moore were married at the house of William Moore, who had come to the township in the spring of 1855. This was the first wedding in the township. Daniel Strayer, a minister of the United Brethren church, officiated on this occasion. He was a resident of Elm Hall, and came on foot, with only a rifle for protection, to perform the ceremony. Mr. Strayer had occasionally preached in Ferris, previous to the wedding, at the little cabin of Hezekiah Hubbell, who had settled just east of the center of the township in the fall of 1855. This cabin was so low that when the minister stood up his head would be between the poles which served as joists. Mr. Strayer died at Elm Hall in the fall of 1864. Frank J. Scott was probably the second white person born in Ferris. The first orchard in the township was set out by Peter Schlappie, who brought trees from Ohio in 1855. He preached the first funeral sermon in Crystal township, and was a local minister of the United Brethren church. He settled on the northeast quarter of section 12, where he lived until his death. Elijah Ferris, the first white man to make his home in this township, was also the first to die and be buried here. He had the consumption when he came to Michigan but during the first year the change seemed very beneficial, but in the spring after his arrival he died. John Maurer and Micajah Douglas made a rough coffin with boards taken from the loft of the cabin of Daniel Strayer, who at this time lived in the township. The boards were nicely planed, and hot water was then poured upon

the sides, by which means they were bent and then made into proper shape. It was then stained with a mixture of Venetian red and sweet milk. Mr. Ferris had desired to be buried on high ground, and as Nathan Scott had offered ground for a public cemetery, he was buried near where the residence of that gentleman stood. There was at that time no road, only a trail, through the swamp from the east to the west side. The remains were therefore placed upon a litter and carried by six men to the place prepared for them.

Erastus Larnard opened the first blacksmith shop in Ferris township at the center of the township. He remained several years, and his shop filled a want long felt. He subsequently purchased a farm which he supposed to be unincumbered, and paid for it in full. A number of years after, a mortgage given by the former owner was foreclosed and he lost his entire property.

FERRIS VILLAGE.

Ferris or Ferris Center, is located in the center of the township of the same name. It was never platted and although it was once a postoffice for the convenience of the rural people, has lost this through the coming of the rural routes. Ferris began its existence in the early days and has always been the location of a school house and a town hall. At present there are two stores. Frank Hare is the proprietor of one of these.

Ferris township is rather unique in the fact that it has not a railroad and no town has ever been platted within its limits. Vestaburg draws the major percentage of the trade from this township.

CHAPTER XIV.

HOME TOWNSHIP.

Home township is designated as town 12 north, range 6 west, and is situated in the northeastern part of the county. It is bounded on the north by Isabella county, on the east by Richland township, on the south by Day and on the west by Belvidere. This was the sixteenth township organized in the county.

The petition for the erection of a new township to be called Home was presented to the board of supervisors on October 10, 1864, and contained the following signatures: Festus F. Goldsmith, R. Jackson, J. F. Beard, R. B. Nichols, L. Roach, J. W. Haymond, H. N. Tupper, Thomas Forquor, William W. Woodard, George C. Roush, Abra Johns, F. A. Goldsmith, C. A. Packard, Egbert L. Heath, Calvin M. Woodard, Christopher Hare, Charles Stiles, N. B. Scott, David Bank, Isaac Pilnie, J. G. Garrison, Henry Crockford, Calvin O. Woodard, Andrew K. Zuner, David Shaffer, Samuel J. Bailey, W. B. Robbins, L. S. Garvin, John Brown, John Correll, George Elder, H. Rowland, J. Weirick, George Offiner and Joshua Fair. This petition was dated at Ferris, August 20, 1864, and comprised the territory in town 12 north, range 6 west.

The board of supervisors passed upon this petition and granted the prayer of the petitioners on October 12, 1864, and further ordered that the first election be held at the house of R. Jackson on the first Monday in April, 1865. The control of this election was placed in the hands of R. Jackson, H. N. Tupper and William W. Woodard.

The surface of Home township is generally undulating, rising gradually towards the centre, where it forms a divide north and south between the Flat and Pine river systems. The streams are all small and of little importance, furnishing no water power in the township.

The lakes are few in number and inconsiderable in extent. The soil is of that peculiar mixture of sand and clay which produces both the hard and soft varieties of wood. Pine, however, predominated in fully three-fourths of the township. A large proportion of these lands were held for lumbering purposes. More particularly was this the case in the northern

part, where a few firms early purchased the more valuable tracts. Whitman & Highland held two thousand one hundred acres in one body, and nine hundred and sixty acres in another. Stinchfield & Whitney held fourteen hundred and eighty acres, besides a number of smaller tracts. This part of the township, although an unbroken forest for many years, developed rapidly in both its lumbering and agricultural interests. As rapidly as it was stripped of its timber, venturesome and hardy pioneers built their cabins and started on the most laborious but surest way to wealth.

The township has in general a productive soil, and the demand for all kinds of home produce was stimulated on account of its extensive lumbering interests; and the ready means of access to the markets of the East and South by means of its railroads, which form a junction at Edmore, rendered agriculture a lucrative employment, and to this source in no slight degree is the rapid development of this interest to be attributed.

LAND ENTRIES.

Section 1—Ambrose L. Soule, Warren A. Sherwood. Section 2—Warren A. Sherwood, F. T. Goldsmith. Section 3—Franklin Moore, Amy Goldsmith, Peter Parmenter. Section 5—Levi Parkin, Michael Sullivan, Edmund Hall. Section 7—James M. Hall, Ira H. Sheldon, John Gresefant, Genesae M. Brown, E. Hall, Solomon Lapaugh, Edmund Hall. Section 8—Philander R. Howe, G. B. Isham, George Beardsley, M. Sullivan. Section 9—Edmund Hall, Jacob W. Stinchfield. Section 10—Horace P. Dean, Alonzo Parmenter, John M. Parsens. Section 11—Jacob W. Stinchfield. Section 12—Ambrose L. Soule, Edwin B. Moore, Norman Shepard. Section 13—Ambrose L. Soule, John D. Throop, Andrew Nisenger. Section 14—Ambrose L. Soule, Moses Pixley, James M. Hall, Fayette Beardsley, James M. Hall, George A. Baker, Phineas Carter. Section 15—James M. Hall, Oscar DeMott, William E. Rury, James M. Hall, James Alzer, Phineas Carter. Section 16—Amos Bissell, James Lascomb, George Beardsley, Edson Packard. Section 17—William W. Woodard, John N. Stock, P. R. Howe, G. B. Isham, Albert P. Laverty. Section 18—William L. Easton, James M. Soverhill, James M. Hall, Andrew J. Cory. Section 19—James M. Soverhill, Stephen F. Page, James M. Soverhill, Chelsea Tupper, John Camp, Arthur R. Price, John Camp, David Vandersen. Section 20—Stephen F. Page, Chelsea Tupper, Frederick Bishop, William W. Woodard, Albert L. Evans, Allen B. Morse, Nelson E. Latham, Philander R. Howe, G. B. Isham, William W. Woodard. Section 21—John Peoples, Hugh Peoples,

Sage Rice, Solomon P. Rapp, Leander Cook, Alden H. Wright, 'Leander Cook. Section 22—Ambrose I. Soule, Thomas Forguer, James M. Hall, Willis Nelson, Malcom A. Dunning. Section 23—Ambrose Soule, Paul Wilkins, Thaddeus Tibbs, Michael Pollasky, Edwin Finch. Section 24—Edward Wells, Samuel Smith, Peter Wirick, Andrew Nisanger, Warren A. Sherwood, Solomon, Lapaugh, John McRae. Section 25—Samuel M. Leggett, John Correll, George T. Elder, Peter Wirick, Jesse Rhodes, Myron Howard, James K. Brown, Jesse B. Smock. Section 26—Samuel M. Leggett, Festus T. Goldsmith, John Brown, Lucias S. Garvin, William R. Jackson, Correne C. Jackson. Section 27—Nathan E. Nichols, Frederick A. Aenis, Festus A. Goldsmith, Joshua Fair, Charles D. Costen. Section 28—Jacob F. Beard, R. B. Nichols, William Armstrong, John W. Haymond, James Gilson. Section 29—Chauncey Tupper, Henry N. Tupper, Mary J. Van Dusen, Henry N. Tupper, Spencer Beard, John W. Haumind, James Lowry, Samuel Muser, Jacob L. Overtz, Thomas N. Taylor. Section 30—Jonathan Green, James M. Soverhill, Jonathan Green, Arthur R. Price. Section 31—William Stevensen. Section 32—George O. Roush, Abia Johns. Section 33—Franklin Tripp, William M. B. Reed, Martin Bent. Section 34—James Woodard, Jeremiah Myers, Henry Cobb, Lucas S. Garvin, Martin Bent, Gilbert Wilson, William B. Chilce. Section 35—Samuel S. Woodworth, Henry R. Woodworth, W. Robbins. Section 36—Elias Hardy, Freeman Rice.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Edward Wolbert, who settled in the extreme southwest corner of Home township, was probably the first man to build a cabin within its boundaries, aside from the hunters who now and then penetrated its solitudes and built temporary shelters. His cabin stood near the state road, and besides being a dwelling house it made in addition, some meager preparation for the accommodation of travelers on their way from Ionia to Millbrook. This route became, as soon as properly opened, one of the favorite roads of travel to the north. Mr. Wolbert's cabin was the last one for many miles, and the road, if such it may be called, stretched through miles of forest unbroken by a single clearing. The townships of Douglass, Day, Belvidere and Richland also were comparatively unbroken wilderness at this time. Mr. Wolbert remained here but a short time, when, with his family—a wife and one child—he moved to the South.

About the year 1862 a party of ten, consisting of John Peoples and his

family, and Hugh Peoples, an unmarried brother, came to the cabin of Edward Wolbert. The men had been here previously and entered land, and while preparing temporary shelters left their families here a few days. John Peoples entered the southwest quarter of section 21, upon which the railroad station at Edmore and much of this village is now situated. Frederick Bishop settled on the adjoining quarter west, on section 20. Hugh Peoples entered the adjoining quarter east. They all built cabins and commenced clearing lands. The struggles with want and privation which followed were long and severe. The nearest mill was Amsden, to which place those settlers who had no teams were obliged to carry their grain on their backs. Stanton was then a flourishing village of three houses. One was a small court house, another Roosa's log hotel, and the other a dwelling house built by Levi Camburn. After making some improvements, Bishop exchanged his farm for one near Charlotte.

One of the first marriages in Home township was that of Hugh Peoples to Maria Wysick, whose parents were among the pioneers in the east part of the township. The first white child born in Home was Anna Peoples, daughter of John Peoples, born on January 15, 1863. The first death was that of a Mrs. Rapp. She was buried on the west side of the road, and just outside the present limits of the cemetery at Edmore, where her remains still rest.

The following are names of old settlers of Home: F. A. Goldsmith, R. B. Nichols, who settled on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 28; James C. Gillson, W. W. Woodard, Oliver Aiken, Z. Rice, William Stevenson, who occupied the farm entered by Edward Wolbert; Thomas Forguer, Oscar D. Moot, Andrew Neiswanger, John Carroll, Thaddeus Tibbels, Edwin Wells, Jeremiah Myers, William S. Eaton and Paul Wilkins.

No school was taught in Home until the spring of 1865, when the people in the south part of the township met and organized a school district, and built a small log house on the southeast part of section 28, and employed Orlando Evans as teacher. He was a nephew of Josiah Fair, with whom he resided at the time.

The next summer a site for another school house was selected one and one-half miles east of the first. A house was erected, in which a school was opened by Mrs. James Brown, whose husband taught at the same time in the cabin before referred to. The first frame school house was built on the east line of section 30, in district No. 3.

In 1866 a postoffice was established at the house of Thomas Forguer, who was appointed postmaster. The office was known as New Home post-

office. Previous to this time the nearest office was at the village of Stanton. Doctor Jackson was the first physician to come to Home. He settled in the south part of the township, on section 26, where he remained several years, and then removed to the West. He subsequently, however, returned to Home, where he died. The next physician was Doctor White, who entered a piece of land, but, like his predecessor, remained a short time and then went west.

The following extract, taken from one of the town books, needs no explanation: "The town board met at the clerk's office on July 5, 1872. Full board present. The meeting being called on account of the clerk's office being burned on the morning of the 2d of July, 1872, the board proceeded to examine the books saved and found the following: book of registration, the accounts with the township treasurer, the financial accounts and school record, records of the commissioners of highways and board of health." The records of election were not saved and the town clerk's office contains no connection or definite record of the officers of the township before this time.

EDMORE.

Edmore is situated principally upon the south half of the southwest quarter of section 21, and the north half of the northwest quarter of section 28. The original plat, however, contained but one hundred and twenty acres, several additions having been made from time to time. The name is derived from Edwin B. Moore—the name of its founder—who platted it, and on the 28th of April, 1878, caused the survey to be made.

The first lot was sold to William Cronkite, who at once erected a small building and opened a shoe shop, for although few improvements had been made in this vicinity, the completion of the railroads the fall previous, forming a junction at this place, had marked it as an important business center for the future. There were also several families, who had settled here a number of years before, and who had made some slight improvements in agriculture. One of these, that of James Gillson, settled here in 1865. He was a native of Scotland, whence he came to America in 1828. He served in the Union army in the Civil War, and for disabilities received was awarded a pension. He built the first hotel in the village of Edmore, soon after the village was platted. On May 28, 1878, E. W. Kitchen purchased a lot, built a house, and opened a general stock of dry goods, boots, shoes, groceries, etc. These were the first business places in the village.

About this time a portable saw-mill was secured, and the lumber for

building purposes, which heretofore had been brought from a distance, was now manufactured from the timber taken from the site of the village. After the manufacture of lumber began in Edmore its growth was exceedingly rapid. Few villages in central Michigan will compare with it in this respect. In the winter of 1878-79 the village, having a sufficient population, was incorporated, and the first election under the charter was held on March 8, 1879, at which time the following persons were elected to the several village offices: President, E. B. Moore; trustees, R. S. Robson, H. G. Johnson, C. S. Knight, C. W. Stafford, E. S. Wagar, H. Austin; clerk, F. M. Burbank; treasurer, O. S. Tower; street commissioner, H. J. Chainey; assessor, A. M. Wolaver. The following is a list of officers for 1880: President, E. B. Moore; trustees, H. G. Johnson, C. W. Stafford, A. V. Rowleson; clerk, F. W. Harrison; treasurer, H. C. Umbenhaur; street commissioner, J. K. Train; assessor, A. M. Wolaver.

During the month of September, 1880, the Chicago, Saginaw & Canada railroad shipped 225,491 pounds of freight, the freightage upon which was \$173.19. The number of pounds received aggregated 5,207,544 and the charges collected were \$1,642. The receipts for the telegraph department were \$55.04.

The report of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroad for the same month is as follows: Total freight shipped from this station, 8,506,597 pounds; charges, \$5,804.14. Freight received, 1,098,928 pounds, upon which charges were collected to the amount of \$2,190.95. The tickets sold over this route amounted to \$1,036.

Edmore came out of that period which followed the exhaustion of the pine timber in the county better, or rather as good, as any other town in the county. This was due partly to the fact of its location. It is truly located in one of the rich farming communities of the county. The scope of territory and rich resources which it draws from gives it the life which it has at present. Edmore and the people can truly be proud of such a busy, hustling village. Although other towns in the county may present larger buildings and longer business blocks, but few can surpass it in the amount of produce received and shipped during a year. It is the trading center for the north and eastern part of the county and the shipping point of the entire community.

Edmore has suffered two fires, which, if it were possible to wipe out, would leave it with business blocks doing credit to the volume of business done in the town. In the year 1901 one entire block on the south side of Main street was destroyed by fire. The loss was placed at \$25,000, but it

carried with it another pang, for one life was claimed by the flames. This was a small girl who, being trapped, was unable to receive assistance and perished. In this fire the town hall, bank building, and several other business houses were entirely consumed.

The second fire was just beside the first, on the north side of Main street. This disastrous fire wiped out almost the entire block. Three stores and two smaller buildings were destroyed before the flames could be checked, entailing a loss of \$20,000. The Moorehead block was erected in 1885, and it is one of the largest business blocks of Edmore. At present Edmore has a population of eight hundred.

A township and village hall was erected in 1902, at a cost of \$6,000. In this town hall the council rooms, jail and postoffice are located; also the fire department, which is a volunteer company of chief and six men and hook and ladder and hose-cart equipment. The water-works is a municipal plant, which was installed in the year 1880, and is fully equipped in every respect. The electric light plant is a private business, owned by J. H. Gibbs & Company. The business interests of the town consist of the L. Barber Creamery Company. This creamery is second in capacity in the county. The volume of business of this creamery amounts to approximately one-half million dollars per year. The W. R. Roach Canning Company is also one of the important industries of the town. Approximately \$85,000 was paid out by this company to the help and to farmers during the year.

Edmore has a potato and stock market. It has no equal in the county, and greater tonnage of business is shipped from Edmore than any other town with the exception probably of Greenville, which ranks ahead of Edmore in the potato market alone. The merchants and business men of Edmore receive their patronage from the entire northeast and south of the county. There are two elevators in Edmore, owned by J. H. Gibbson & Son and J. L. Thomas. E. E. Curtis is one of the largest bean and potato buyers in this county. Everybody and everything in this village is a live wire of the town. It is growing faster than any other in Montcalm county, and will only be a matter of a short time until it ranks among the first in every respect. The present officials are: Harry E. Wagar, president; Fred E. Curtis, clerk; James W. Swift, treasurer; Hugh McKay, assessor.

There are two hamlets in Home township which deserve mention. The first of these is Wyman, which is a little station on the Pere Marquette railroad. This hamlet has had a precarious existence and has failed to reach much size. There is one store at present and a little cluster of houses.

Wyman, although so small, has possessed two names in its life; it formerly was known as Averyville. The other hamlet of this township is known as Cedar Lake, from the body of water of that name. Cedar Lake is a small resort and could hardly be classed as a village. It is the location of the Advent College. There are at present some dozen houses.

CHAPTER XV.

MAPLE VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

The first petition for the erection of the township of Maple Valley was dated on December 5, 1863, and contained the names of the following resident freeholders of the township of Winfield: E. R. Glenwood, Daniel E. Knight, Allen Macomber, Isaac Gileo, C. C. Johnson, Moses Swarthout, Francis Strang, H. S. Barton, Nicholas Whitesel, Seth Beal, James S. Smith, Albert D. Rust, Charles H. Blanding, who were residents of town 12 north, range 9 west, and John Cody, Cornelius Sullivan, James Ferguson, D. S. Appleby, William Maile, E. Foote, Jacob Ferguson, Charles Parker, Patrick Gahan, Patrick Cain, William Cody and Lewis J. Moses. This petition was to have been presented to the board of supervisors at their regular session on January 6, 1864. The notices were duly posted, but whether it was not presented to the board or they rejected it at that time is not known. But it is safe to say that it was presented, as it is found among their early documents and in all probability they failed to act on it at this meeting, for another petition with the same request was presented at the next meeting. The latter petition was signed by the following: Lewis J. Moos, Charles Parker, Jacob Ferguson, James Ferguson, Peter Kain, Patrick Gahan, Patrick Lynch, Charles Blanding, William Cody, James Cody, Edward F. Foot, James Appleby, Albert D. Rust, Alfred Rust, E. R. Ellenwood and Seth Beal. This petition was dated on February 17, 1864, and is the one acted upon by the board of supervisors. The supervisors acted upon this petition on February 17, 1864, and ordered that the new township be duly organized and called Maple Valley. The first election was held at the house of Edward F. Foote, on the first Monday in April, 1864, and Lewis J. Moos, Jacob Ferguson and Charles Parker acted as judges of the election. The territory organized into the new township consisted of town 11 north, range 9 west.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES.

Section 1—James Lively, Jason Westaves, J. B. Barr. Section 2—A. F. and H. J. Orton, Jeremiah Ryan, George P. Demoray, J. B. Barr, Samuel S. Holcomb. Section 3—Jeremiah Ryan, D. A. Wilson, Peter Johnson,



IN THE OLD LUMBER DAYS NEAR STANTON.



Leroy R. Stiles. Section 4—Allen Wright, Philander Griswold, Moses Warner. Section 5—Peter Sanborn, Charles Parker. Section 6—Adriana Miller, William Male, Martin Ryerson, Rob W. Morris, P. Johnson, Junius Ryerson. Section 7—William Becket, James Ferguson, Howland Soule, Patrick Gahan, Emey J. Blanding, Jacob Ferguson. Section 8—Alexander H. Blanding, Patrick Lynch, Cornelius Sullivan, Isabella Parker, Charles Parker, Enoch Earl, Edward Foote. Section 9—Charles P. Wilson. Section 10—Jeremiah Ryan, A. J. and H. J. Orton, William Cody, Hiram Prouty, R. L. Buchanning, A. S. Price. Section 11—Allen Wright, Heber Cowden, Abel T. Cowden, Charles Cowden. Section 12—Charles W. House, Parnelia House, Harvey E. Price, S. Rockefeller, Jason Westave, J. B. Barr. Section 13—Harrison Morgan, George Macomber, Louis S. Sovell. Section 14—Harrison Morgan, George Macomber, Peleg Soule, Michael Donahue, Mary Keefer, Emmanuel Fralick. Section 15—Allen Wright, Jeremiah Ryan, Jeremiah Donahue, John Sullivan, William Cody, William Sheehan, Dennis Cody, Patrick Cody. Section 16—James House, Howland Soule, Hugh McGuire, David R. Morrical, John Cody, Peter Johnson, Henry Purdy, Charles Earle. Section 17—William R. Foote, Emery J. Blanding, Ashael J. Root, James Lively, Charles Parker. Section 18—Charles H. Blending, Lewis J. Moore, Ashu Parks, William Watts, Charles J. Church, John W. Denton, Elias R. Ferguson, Ansel Adams, R. S. Halcolm, J. W. Denton. Section 19—John Loree, Nelson Marble, Thomas Almy, John B. Fletcher, Lewis Moore, Cambyses F. Hinchman. Section 20—George Macomber, Elizabeth Richardson, William C. Ingraham, James B. Surram, Enoch Earle, A. Sylvester Ingraham, Alvin Davis, J. D. Lirnan. Section 21—Emery Trufant, Daniel J. Reed, Soammi Cowdin, Anson Bellamy, Marvin Saxton. Section 22—George Macomber, Emery Trufant, Marvin Saxton, Seymour Hamond, William Fitzgerald, Patrick Gahan, James House, Owen W. Garrett, William Duffey, George N. Morgan. Section 23—Henry M. Cowkins, Emery Trufant, Harrison Morgan, George Macomber, Emery Trufant. Section 24—George Macomber. Section 25—George Souke, Leonidas Scranton, Emery Trufant, George Macmober. Section 26—Henry M. Cawkins, Emory Trufant. Section 27—Emory Trufant, George Macomber, Peleg Soule, Loren Curtis, James Turner. Section 28—George Macomber, William Almy, Russel N. Wright, T. Stevenson. Section 29—George Macomber, Martin Mason. Section 30—Richard Williams, Malvina P. Fletcher, Cambyses F. Hinchman, Cyrus Hinchman, Philo B. Ingra-

ham, William Brownlee, James Calkins, Robert Taylor, William H. Banks, Jr. Section 31—John Buttolph, Michael Whitan, Philo B. Ingraham, Benjamin W. Ingraham, Dudley M. Ingraham, Simon Whelan, Edgar L. Grey. Section 33—George Macomber, John Buttolph, William Herriff, Daniel Flick, Henry Shatto, Jesse Blake, John B. Fletcher, Samuel Marble. Section 33—George Macomber, Samuel W. Gibbs. Section 34—Emory Trufant, George Macomber, Hugh Maguire, David B. Morrical. Section 35—Emory Trufant. Section 36—George Souks, Emory Trufant, George Macomber, Emory Trufant.

SOME OF THE EARLY SETTLERS.

The permanent settlement of Maple Valley township began in 1858, when Heber Cowden, with his family, settled on the northwest fractional quarter of section 11. He was a native of Washington county, New York, whence he came direct to Jackson county, Michigan, in 1835, where he continued to reside until 1858. On coming to Maple Valley he built a cabin and began a clearing, and continued to reside on this land until his death, in 1862. His death was the first in the township. Mr. Cowden was a well, hearty man, but one day, coming into the house from his work, complained of feeling ill, and in five minutes he died of heart disease. The funeral took place at his cabin. He was buried on his own land, near the lake, in a beautiful spot.

Michael Whalen came to the township about the same time. He entered the southwest quarter of section 31 and the west half of the southeast quarter of the same section. Soon after his brother, Simon, came in.

In June, 1858, E. J. Blanding, of Livingston county, New York, and his father-in-law, Howland Soules, of Vergennes, Kent county, came to Maple Valley, which was then a part of Pierson. The latter selected several tracts of land, but did not become a resident. Two of his sons, James P. and Benjamin Soules, subsequently settled in the township, but at the time they entered their land several settlements had already been made.

James and Jacob Ferguson, John, James, William and Patrick Cody and Patrick Lynch all settled in the township previous to 1858, and all became permanent residents. James Ferguson settled on section 18, his brother, Jacob, on section 7, the Cody brothers, who were direct from Ireland, on section 15. Patrick Lynch settled on section 8. His daughter, Mary, who was born in the summer of 1861, was the first white child born in the township. In the fall of 1860 E. J. Blanding came in and settled on

land which he had entered two years previous. The lumber of which the floor of his cabin was made was hauled from Denmark, seventeen miles distant. In 1863 Mr. Blanding enlisted and served in the Tenth Michigan Cavalry as sergeant, and was subsequently promoted to lieutenant. In the meantime several other families had reached the township.

Daniel Appleby settled with his family on section 7, and Peter Wood located just beside him. This covers the first settlers in this township, and after this period the settlement was made rapidly and the land was taken up by permanent settlers, who have made this their home and been the chief factors in placing Maple Valley township in the front ranks of the townships of Montcalm county.

Maple Valley township has three general natural drainage systems. That of the northeast, of the southwest and the southeast. Muscalonge lake is the reservoir for the latter system, but the two former ones are merely small streams. The Pere Marquette railroad runs diagonally through the county from the northwest to the southeast and furnishes an excellent means of transporting the products which are raised in the township, to foreign markets.

Maple Valley township has three villages within its limits. All of these are located on the Pere Marquette, with Coral and Trufant, which are the largest, occupying positions in the opposite corners of the township, and Maple Valley, which is merely a small hamlet, occupying a position between the two.

VILLAGE OF CORAL.

In the fall of 1861 Charles Parker came to the township and settled on section 7. He bought also the west half of the northwest quarter of section 9 from Charles Wilson, who settled in Pierston. Mr. Parker bought this eighty acres for the pine which grew upon it, intending to float it down Tamarack creek, and in pursuance of this plan, he put a considerable number of logs in the river. But the mill company of Howard City, considering this an imposition on them, brought suit against the lumber company for damages, and the practice of rafting logs was prohibited. Hence, when the saw-mill of Morris and Henry Stump was completed, Mr. Parker commenced the manufacture of lumber. When the Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroad was completed through here he laid out the village, which he called Coral. Wilson had cleared about an acre of land and built a log cabin. This was the first house in this vicinity, and was built when the country

was a wilderness. The next was a log house built by Parker for his men while he was engaged in taking out logs. This mill, which had a capacity of twenty thousand feet per day, was the beginning of the business interests of the little village. It was burned, however, in 1874.

Clayton Wood soon after bought a lot, built a small house and opened a light stock of goods. This was the first store in the township. But he soon failed in business and turned his attention to farming, but subsequently removed to Dakota. The development of the village from this time was rapid. James Parks came from Indiana and opened a blacksmith shop. Frankinberger opened the next store.

The saw-mill and dryer built by J. Potter Hart in 1872 had a capacity of forty thousand feet per day. It continued in full operation, turning out an immense quantity of lumber and employing from forty to sixty men, until the pine was exhausted and the mill removed, in 1880. A flouring custom-mill was built by George Highlander. It had one run of stones for feed and one for flour. Charles Parker, its founder, remained in the township until 1880, when he removed, with his family, to Oregon.

Situated, as it is, on the banks of Spruce lake, which is only a small body of water, Coral has grown and proved a very nice location for a village. It has passed from a timber camp to a very busy little village with a population of approximately four hundred. It has never been incorporated and its government is connected with that of the township.

VILLAGE OF TRUFANT.

Trufant village was laid out on land entered from the government by Mr. Trufant, who built a saw-mill here in 1872, which was the first run by water in the township. He sold out to J. B. Hileman and Jacob Hesser, who built a steam saw-mill on the site of the old one. They later added a shingle- and planing-mill, and employed eighty men. They averaged forty thousand feet of lumber and forty thousand shingles per day. The firm of Hileman & Hesser laid out the village in the year 1874, and named it after Mr. Trufant, the first settler of this land, who moved to Mount Clemens and there died. The first building erected was a boarding house built by this firm and run by Samuel Barr. In 1872 T. H. Stimpson put up a building for a hotel. He was a member of the United Brethren church and subsequently went to preaching. The first store was opened by Herrick Fox. He built a small house and opened a light stock of goods, but did not remain

long in the business. Philip Wilson opened a stock of goods in 1873, and remained in business but four years. Frank Seymour started in the mercantile business in Trufant in 1875 and closed out in 1880. George H. Cowin opened a stock of drugs in 1877. Dr. J. T. Joslyn was the first physician to locate in Trufant. He remained but a year, and then returned to Guernsey. He was succeeded by Doctor Hammond. The death of Elmer Howey, in 1872, was the first in the village.

Trufant was first laid out, March 10, 1875, and three years later the town had grown until an addition was laid. This was done on March 31, 1879. Trufant is a village of about four hundred inhabitants and is situated on the northwest side of Muscalonge lake. This is the largest body of water in Maple Valley township, Cowden lake alone rivalling it. Trufant, like Coral, is a very busy little town. Both are good markets for potatoes, stock and grain. Elevators are located at both towns, and these do a good business. Both towns are supported by the trade which comes from the farmers, as there is no natural resource to give life to the town.

MAPLE VALLEY VILLAGE.

This hamlet was situated principally on land owned by William Fitzgerald, in section 15. He sold eighty acres to R. Kearney, who laid out the village in 1872. The saw-mill was built by Babcock & Ferguson in 1870. Soon after the village was laid out, Doctor Slawson, who was also the first postmaster, built a store and opened a stock of goods. He remained in business some years. A hotel was built by Horace Sturtevant. The town of Maple Valley has entirely ceased to exist as a village, only a cluster of houses marking the place where it was laid out.

STALHAM W. LADU.

Stalham W. LaDu was born in Fishkill, Dutchess county, New York, February 28, 1823, and died at Coral, Michigan, October 3, 1910. He was the son of Jacob and Hannah LaDu, who were old-fashioned Methodists, his father having been for many years a class leader. His parents were descendants of French Huguenots, who escaped to America from the massacre of St. Bartholomew and were of the party who afterward settled on the Hudson river. He was converted when about seventeen years of age, and early felt the call to preach the gospel. Severe sickness for several years prevented him from engaging in the work until, on his knees by his bedside,

he promised God that if He would give him strength he would leave all and obey His call. He picked up such education as he could in the common schools, spent part of the winter of 1842 with a minister in reading and study, and later entered Red Creek Union Academy, where he spent two years pursuing such studies as would be best calculated to help him in the work of the ministry.

In his twenty-second year, being out of funds, Mr. LaDu, with a young associate, went to Canada, where he secured a position as teacher in the county of Northumberland. Soon after opening the school he commenced preaching in the school house, with the result that several were converted and the community stirred. He followed the same course in other localities in Canada, with like results. Having united with the Canadian Methodist Episcopal church, he, at last, after a long struggle, decided that God wanted him to preach the gospel in Canada and he resolved to do so even though it might mean poverty and hardship. At this time he was married to Clarissa N. Gaffield and she willingly consented to share his lot and work, knowing fully what it would mean.

Stalham W. LeDu joined the Bay Quinte conference in September, 1845, and was appointed to the Colbourne circuit as junior preacher. While on this circuit he had gracious revivals with splendid success. In 1848 he was elected agent for the book concern, in which office he traveled through the connection. The next year he was appointed as pastor at Colburg. He remained here "preaching with fair success" until he was prostrated with nervous trouble and was obliged to leave the work. This was when he was but twenty-eight years of age. After a rest he partially recovered and was appointed presiding elder of Colbourne district. In addition to the district work he also had charge of the church at Belleville. While engaged in that work he was again prostrated.

For three years Reverend LaDu was engaged in business at Brighton, after which he again went into the work and served several charges, on each of which he had gracious revivals until about 1861, when he was again made presiding elder of the Colbourne district, this time serving four years. From that work he went to the Detroit conference and spent three successful years in the Lake Superior district at Hancock and Calumet. He had revivals and built the first church building at Hancock and organized the first society at Calumet. At the completion of the work at Hancock he planned to go farther west, but while attending the Canadian general conference was prevailed upon by his former associates to return to them. He

again entered the itinerary in Canada, laboring for three years, when his health failed entirely and physicians assured him that he would never be able to take up the work again. He was greatly disappointed, but accepted the inevitable, and seeing an opening in 1874, came to Coral, where he spent the remainder of his long and useful life.

While in Canada, Stalham W. LaDu was a man of commanding power and influence in the church. He was one of the founders of Albert University and was a member of the board of managers. He was a delegate to every general conference while he was engaged in active ministry and was once elected fraternal delegate to the general conference of the United States. On coming to Coral he made his life a part of the life of the village. He entered the business life of the village by operating a lumber mill; he took an active and leading part in the religious life of the village and county through his association with the Methodist church.

Reverend LaDu was often referred to as the pioneer temperance worker of the county, having inaugurated and led in the war against the liquor traffic that first made Montcalm county dry by local option. He was twice honored by election as a member of the House of Representatives in the Michigan Legislature, where he served with such conspicuous ability that he was considered a leader. He was a fighter for the temperance cause while in the Legislature and fathered some of the temperance legislation under which the state is now working.

Stalham W. LaDu was prominent as a candidate for governor of Michigan and held the balance of power in the Republican state convention that nominated Russell A. Alger for governor. Governor Alger later appointed the subject of this article state oil inspector. Mr. LaDu was one of Governor Pingree's advisors and had a part in the nomination and election of that gentleman as chief executive of the state. During the Pingree administration Mr. LaDu was a deputy oil inspector and on the death of Probate Judge Fenn, Governor Pingree wanted to appoint Mr. LaDu probate judge of the county. He was a member of the hardware firm of LaDu & Baldwin, which did an extensive business in Coral for many years.

CHAPTER XVI.

MONTCALM TOWNSHIP.

Montcalm township bears the distinction of being the pioneer township of Montcalm county. It was established before the county even took on a civil existence and five years before the second township was established. It was officially organized on March 19, 1845, and took in the entire territory of the county, as then formed, except townships 9 and 10 north, range 5 west, which later formed the township of Bloomer. Montcalm township was organized by an act of the state Legislature, and although the act which organized Montcalm county was passed at a later date it did not affect the earlier organization of this township. The first town meeting was held at the house of Anson Ensign, April 7, 1845. The minutes of this meeting give the business accomplished in detail and are given verbatim: "A record of the proceedings of the first town meeting, holden in the house of Anson Ensign, in said town. Stephen Warren was chosen moderator; George Gibson, Josiah Russell, Ethan Satterlee and Rosecrans K. Divine were severally chosen inspectors of said meeting, between the hours of nine and ten o'clock in the forenoon. And after being duly sworn, the said Josiah Russell and Rosecrans K. Divine were duly chosen clerks of said meeting, and the polls of said election were duly opened, and the result was as follows, to wit, the whole number of votes polled for any one office was thirty-six."

At this election the following persons were duly elected: Supervisor, Frederick Worden; clerk, Josiah Russell; treasurer, Rosecrans K. Divine; justices, George Gibson, Stephen H. Warren, John Green and Elihu Fortner; assessors, Samuel D. Barr and Ethan Satterlee; commissioners of highways, Westbrook Divine, Edward Petty and Lyman H. Pratt; school inspectors, H. N. Stinson, Josiah Bradish and Ananias Worden; directors of the poor, Volney Belding and Josiah Bradish; constables, Henry S. Halford, Jonathan Gould, Lorenzo Whitney and Lyman H. Pratt.

Montcalm originally contained some fourteen congressional townships, but as the other and later townships were formed its boundary was gradually reduced until its present boundaries were reached and it contained but one congressional township. It lies in the second tier of townships from the south and borders on Kent county on the west. It is bounded as follows:

Pine township on the north, Sidney on the east, Eureka on the south and Kent county on the west, and it is designated in the government survey as township 10 north, range 8 west.

There are several lakes of considerable size in this township and many smaller ones, most of which are drained by small tributaries of Flat river. This stream, which enters the township on section 4, after a very tortuous and meandering course, flowing through sections 4, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 30, 31, 32, enters Eureka from the southwest quarter of section 33. This river furnishes excellent natural drainage for the farms in this section. The steep and precipitous banks along its course and the rapid fall of its current also furnish excellent water-power, which has been utilized to good advantage.

Flat river has had an enviable career, for in the days of the early clearing it bore its countless millions of logs to the mills in the older settled districts. It is rather remarkable to note that in a single year, exclusive of the logs manufactured into lumber at the mills in Montcalm, Pine and other townships, one hundred and fifty-four million feet passed through the chute at the little village of Gowen to the mills below. Hundreds of men, horses and cattle were necessary to subserve this interest. But this natural resource was soon to be exhausted and that period of stagnation in business which inevitably follows the exhaustion of natural resources that have for a long period furnished constant and profitable employment to large bodies of men, was soon felt. The lumber interests in Montcalm, like those of other localities, were pushed to the limit and soon the lumber camps ceased to exist and in their place large fields of stumps of these giants of the forests were the only markers of this once thriving industry. Then the interests and pursuits of the inhabitants who had determined to make this their future home must needs be turned along other lines of business. The soil in this section was found to be the best. It was a sandy loam and agricultural pursuits soon began to claim the attention of the settlers. The pine timber has all been obliterated and only the stumps of these pioneers of the forest remain, and they are utilized for fencing, and in their places fields of grain or potatoes show the versatility of the early settler. Thus when lumbering ceased to be profitable the settlers took up the more stable business of farming and have made even more progress than had been at first hoped.

LAND ENTRIES.

Among those who purchased from the general government lands situated in this township were the following:

Section 1—J. B. Barr, Jacob A. Davis, Thaddeus A. Laurence, Henry M. Caukins. Section 2—Richard M. Patrick, Jacob A. Davis, David R. Hart, William Burt, George Rossman, T. A. Laurence, Henry M. Caukins. Section 3—George Rossman, Richard Patrick, Benjamin Joy, Marshall Stark. Section 4—David Carpenter, James Davis, Joseph Fellshaw, Samuel B. Peck, C. Crane, D. F. Clark, Samuel Peck, C. A. Worden, C. P. Morse. Section 5—George Loucks, Jacob Davis, C. Crane, Samuel B. Peck, Benjamin Joy. Section 6—Jacob A. Davis, John Clark, C. Crane, Claudius B. Nichols. Section 7—George Loucks, Eliphalet Gregory, Greenville O. Holmes, Levi B. Gregory. Section 8—Warren S. Felt, Charles Seymour. Section 9—Joseph Fellshaw, Allen Thompson, Robert H. Smith, William Degulice, Solomon Elyah, A. Godfrey, James Davis, Charles Seymour, Henry M. Moore. Section 10—Fite Rossman, George Rossman, Hiram Rossman, Enos T. Peck, Samuel B. Peck, Jacob Chapman, Charles E. Vanderburg, William Atwill, Thomas N. Stevens. Section 11—Benjamin Osborn, James Brown, George Rossman, Thaddeus Laurence, Samuel B. Peck, John G. Morgan, Henry Osman. Section 12—Thaddeus A. Laurence, John W. Kent, Harmonius Brower, Edward H. Jones, D. Towsley, Philip Leech, Peter Brown, George Bower. Section 13—Hiram Rossman, Leonard Rossman, Michael McCabe, Joseph B. Murphy, Christian Sadtman, E. H. Jones, D. Towsley, Martin Sebalt, C. Sedtman. Section 14—Abel Hawley, Ebenezer Balcom, James F. Brown, James Felton, Hiram Rossman, John G. Morgan, James R. Brown, John Devier. Section 15—Enos T. Peck, Rebecca Pierson, James Felton, H. Rossman, Samuel B. Peck, J. A. Peck, S. Kent. Section 16—Chapin and Booth, O. Loomis, Anson Bellamy, John Temp, H. M. Fuller, George W. Bellamy, Joseph Burgess, John Breitzmer, George Fiek, C. Vogle. Section 17—Abel French, Henry Moore, Charles Seymour, Whitney Jones, Robert Smith, William Degalia, Ezra Jones, Wilson Morier, F. W. Worden, H. M. Fuller, H. A. Smith. Section 18—Horton Wilcox, George Loucks, E. Gregory, Samuel Gregory, Whitney Jones, William Kitts, Allen Thompson, John Shaw, Frederick W. Worden. Section 19—Legrand Cannon, Daniel Jones, John Alma, Ira Porter, J. B. Dickinson, Martin Shearer. Section 20—Samuel H. Combs, John Miller, Ira Porter, Alfred B. Miller, John Ball, E. Ransom, Leander Cole, Charles Seymour. Section 21—W. and W. C. Ransom, Leander Cole, Charles Seymour. Section 22—Elias Small, James Grant, Enos T. Peck, Robert Burdick, William Cook, Robert Burdick, Jr. Section 23—Caleb Cooper, Joseph Whitbeck, James Grant, William Toby. Section 24—Josiah Todd, Edward Straley, Hiram Rossman, Sidney Todd, William McCrudy, Michael McCabe, Eliza Will-

iams, Martha Rossman, Garrett J. Van Allen, Edward H. Jones, William H. Johnson, William Sanderson. Section 25—Enos Wetherell, Nathan High, George Rossman, Henry Osmon, Charles Cross, Stephen Cupp, Potter Kelley, A. E. Fuller, Obadiah E. Fuller. Section 26—Michael Gordon, Enos Wetherell, John Kent, Harvey Allen, William H. Ellsworth. Section 27—Joseph D. Stearnes, Isaac Miller, Richard W. Wells, Dennis Arnold, John Churchill. Section 28—Charles Seymour, Whitney Jones, William Degalia, George M. Pierson. Section 29—Alfred L. Driggs. Section 30—Luther Lincoln, Ira Porter, John Almy, J. L. Morse, V. Belding, Legrand Cannon, Edmund Bostwick, Philo Beers, Ira Porter, J. L. B. Kerr, A. L. Briggs. Section 31—William W. Baker, J. F. Smith, Andrew P. Crowell, Hilton and White, Winslow Dodge, Henry Hilton, Richard Hilton, Ira Porter, Edwin A. Hayden, Louis Merrifield, John D. Wilson. Section 32—John D. Wilson, Jacob W. Petty, Chauncey Cole, John Ball, John Green, Jerome Pease, Abel Avery, William Degalia, Francis Potter, Samuel Demorest. Section 33—Samuel Hamilton, Whitney Jones, Ransom E. Wood, N. E. Horton, Martin Shearer, Samuel B. Peck, Jacob W. Petty, Henry M. Moore. Section 34—Jacob W. Petty, Sarah Vanderhoof, John Churchill, Lewis E. Smith, Chauncey B. Miner, Abram Mann, William Harris. Section 35—Levi J. Allen, Lewis Buck, David K. Goodman, George Rossman, Fite Rossman, Barney Bigler, Thomas H. Hartwell. Section 36—Charles Hubbs, Jacob Rehman, John G. Reker, Henry B. Tipp, Squire M. Newberry.

ARRIVAL OF THE LINCOLN FAMILY.

Luther Lincoln, who entered the land at the junction of Black creek and Flat river, was the first settler in Montcalm township, and one of the first in the county. His entry at that time comprised the northwest quarter of section 30, upon which, near the junction referred to, he built the first cabin in the township, and with a son he continued to reside there and in that vicinity many years. He is said to have been peculiar and eccentric in many particulars, but, upon the whole, a man of many estimable qualities. During the first years of his stay he cleared a small piece of land and raised several crops before any other settler entered the township. Some years later he dammed the river and built a small mill with an upright saw; this was in section 30. It employed two men, who, beside Mr. Lincoln and his son, were probably the only ones in the township. This property passed into other hands before his death. His mind for several years before this event

is regarded as having been clouded, and it is to this fact that his business reverses and disasters are attributed. His son, who subsequently removed to Kent county, was killed by lightning.

In 1844 L. H. Pratt and his brother-in-law, S. D. Barr, bought an interest in the mill property of J. L. Morse and one Belden, who had previously been taken into partnership by Luther Lincoln. The wife of S. D. Barr, a sister of L. H. Pratt, was the first resident white woman in Montcalm township. Her daughter, Sarah Dett Barr, was the first white child born in the township.

It was about the year 1845 that an incident occurred which shows the strong reverence of the Indian for his ancient customs and superstitions. In the spring of that year the band known as the Blacksmith family, being a branch of the Ottawa tribe, went, as had been their custom, to the North for the purpose of making maple sugar. While engaged in this avocation one of their number, a woman, was taken suddenly ill and died. The band set out at once to return to deposit the corpse in the cemetery of their forefathers, located near Greenville. In the northern part of Montcalm county—probably in the region of Six lakes—they obtained a canoe, and by means of it descended the river as far as Lincoln's mill, known then as Barr's mill. Here they desired L. H. Pratt to take his team and wagon and convey the corpse to its destination, manifesting a great anxiety that the ceremony of burial should take place just as the sun reached the meridian. The horses were soon attached, and the corpse, wrapped in a cloak, placed in the center of the wagon box, while the mourners arranged themselves on either side.

The rough corduroy roads seemed to forbid rapid travel, and through respect for the dead, Mr. Pratt curbed his team to a moderate pace. But the Indians, watching the sun, as the hour of noon gradually drew on, manifested every symptom of impatience, and finally urged the driver to drive more rapidly. To their infinite relief the horses took a swifter pace, the corpse bounded from side to side, and they retained their places with difficulty. It is probable they had never been in a wagon before, and their glee was unbounded. Upon reaching the burial place they dug a shallow grave, and, with a spoon, knife and bowl, as an introduction of a faithful squaw to the happy land, they interred the corpse. This tribe subsequently moved to the North.

S. D. Barr was later a resident of Belvidere township, while L. H. Pratt, who was one of the first postmasters in Montcalm county, moved to Fairplain township.

On June 19, 1844, Frederick W. Worden entered the south half of the southeast quarter of section 18, upon which the village of Gowen is situated. It has been asserted that Lieutenant Worden, of the United States navy, and celebrated as the commander of the "Monitor" during its action with the rebel ram "Merrimac," was born here. This, however, is not authentic, although he lived here when a child with his parents for several years. The house built by Mr. Worden as a dwelling for his family stood across the road from where the brick hotel built by James Gowen stood. On August 26, 1844, Mr. Worden sold an interest in the water privilege to Volney and Thomas Belding, and the company immediately erected a saw-mill.

FIRST TOWNSHIP MEETING.

About the year 1844 Anson Ensign came in and purchased the water privilege on the northwest quarter of section 30, at which place he built a dam and saw-mill and gave employment to a considerable force of men. In a small house built near this mill and owned by him the first township meeting in the county was held, in the spring of 1845. This mill subsequently passed into the possession of D. Underhill, and later was owned by Henry Watson, who moved into the township in 1857, and worked in it for one dollar per day.

In 1843 John D. Wilson, a native of Huddersfield, England, came to Michigan, and in 1844 to Montcalm, and entered land in the south part of sections 31 and 32. He cleared the brush from thirty acres, which he plowed during the summer. He was unmarried and boarded in Eureka while doing this work. This was the first improvement made in the township, aside from that made by Luther Lincoln. Mr. Wilson subsequently disposed of his land and started for Australia, since which time nothing definite has been heard of him.

In 1845 his brother, Joe Wilson, with his wife and three children, moved to Ionia county and settled in Otisco, where he lived until the winter of 1846-47, when he entered eighty acres of land on section 6, in Eureka township, and built a cabin, into which he moved soon afterward. In 1846 he sowed to wheat a part of the tract in Montcalm broken up by his brother two years previously. It was the first piece of any considerable extent sown in the township. Having secured eighty acres of his brother's land, he took down the cabin which he had built and removed it to this land, where he again set it up. It was the first house, aside from those at the mills, and its occupant was the first in the township to engage exclusively in agricultural

pursuits. He traded his land in Eureka for eighty acres on section 34, owned by John W. Petty, built a house upon it, and resided there two years.

In 1848 his son, William Fountain Wilson, died and was buried beside his sister in Otisco township. This was probably the first death in the township, as Sarah, the youngest child of John Wolverton, whose death is usually considered the first, did not die until some weeks afterward. She was, however, the first interred in the township, the cemetery being situated on the east line of her father's farm, and directly south of the quarter post. It became a public burial place, and was the first in the township.

About the year 1848 John Wolverton settled on the southwest quarter of section 31, having at the same time entered land adjoining Eureka township, upon which he built his barn. This section of Montcalm previous to that time was known as Lincoln's Plains, but from that time to the present has been called Wolverton Plains. His family consisted of a wife and six children. Mr. Wolverton died many years since, and his widow, who became the wife of John Smith, died at an advanced age.

John Hocroft and Joseph Brown were the next to reach the township. They settled on section 32, built cabins and made some other improvements, but, selling out soon afterward, they moved away.

PLANTING WHEAT FOR DEER BAIT.

In 1849 Jacob Carr, who had entered land on section 33, came to reside permanently in the township. At this time, being single, he boarded with Joe Wilson while making some improvements on his land. Among other things he cleared an acre of ground and sowed it to wheat for a deer bait, and upon which he succeeded in killing many deer. Mr. Carr subsequently married a Miss Landerton, of Oakland county. At his death he was one of the oldest settlers in the township. During the first years of his stay he was in the lumber business.

Joseph D. Stearns, the next to reach the township, also a single man, boarded with Mr. Wilson, as did Jacob Carr, while improving his farm, which comprised the southwest quarter of section 27. Mr. Stearns was also very extensively engaged in lumbering, having owned several mills in various localities.

Levi J. Allen, Harris Goodman, Louis Ruch and John Churchill are among the pioneers in the south part of the township. Churchill settled on the west half of the northeast quarter of section 34, Allen on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 35, Ruch on the south half of the north-

east quarter of the same section. They were all very prominent in the affairs of the county and township for a number of years.

Among the earliest settlers in the central part of the township was Robert Burdick, who had been a soldier of 1812, and who, with a government land warrant, entered the northwest quarter of section 22, where he built a good log house and where he lived until his death. His family, several children of whom were married and lived in New York, came a few years after his arrival.

In 1855 James Brown, with his sons, J. R. and Silas, and four daughters, two of whom were married, as were also his two sons, reached the township. The two remaining daughters were married to William and Robert Burdick, Jr. The latter later resided on land entered by his father, while William occupied land entered by his father-in-law, James Brown. Another son-in-law, James Toby, entered the northwest quarter of section 23.

Michael McCabe was the next to penetrate the wilderness in the northeast part of the township. His family at that time consisted of a wife and three children. Michael McCabe died in 1875.

At the time these settlements were made there was no clearing to the north in this township. James Brown cleared a road from the state road to his place in 1855, there being at that no settlement between him and the mill at Langston. A road was soon afterward completed to the saw-mill started by James Powers in the school section north of the lake. This mill was subsequently burned and was never rebuilt.

These families lived here a number of years before any other settlements were made in the northeast part of the township. This locality, being covered with pine, offered many obstacles to rapid development, and there were some tracts held for lumbering purposes at a very late period, but they are all gone at present. Section 23, however, received two families about this time, Sylvester Jackson and Austin Barrett, neither of whom remained long. Barrett went into the army and was reported killed. I. Underwood purchased the south half of the northeast quarter of section 22 from Joe Wilson, who was acting as agent for Joseph Mott, of Schuyler county, New York.

William A. Brown was among the first to settle in the north part of Montcalm. He entered the north half of the northwest quarter of section 14, and made the first improvements in this part of the township. He removed, but afterwards returned with his brothers, George F., James S. and Alexander, all of whom became permanent settlers and made the principal improvements on their respective farms.

In 1850 John Wolverton and Joe Wilson, assisted by other settlers in the vicinity, built a little board school house on Mr. Wolverton's farm, and hired Harriet White, of Kent county, to teach. She died in her youth. This was the first school taught in the township. The next school house was built on section 34, and resembled the former in its construction.

RESIDENTS OF 1851.

The resident taxpayers of the township in 1851, the sections upon which their lands were situated, and the number of acres owned by each were (according to the assessment roll of that year) indicated in the following list:

Sections. Acres.		Sections. Acres.	
Samuel Barr -----	20, 77	Joseph Stearns -----	27 160
Burrington & Rockwood----		John Wolverton -----	31 80
-----	17, 18, 19, 20 427	Jacob Wise -----	31 160
A. L. Briggs -----	29, 30 694	Joseph Wilson -----	34 80
E. B. Burrington -----	26 40	John Wilson -----	34 160
Beers & Ensign -----	19, 30 213	Chauncey B. Miner-----	34 40
French & Moore -----	30 205	Lewis Ruch -----	35 80
Jacob W. Petty ----	30, 31, 32 153	David K. Goodman -----	35 160

GOWEN VILLAGE.

Among the early residents in the western part of Montcalm was William Potter, who, in the year 1817, opened a small stock of dry-goods and groceries at Worden's Mills. This was probably the first store in the township, and from that time to the present this locality has been a business center for the immediate vicinity.

For nearly twenty years Mr. Potter resided in this place and continued in the mercantile business. He subsequently removed to Greenville, where he engaged in the lumber trade. He later became a resident of Lowell. Soon after locating at Worden's Mill, Mr. Potter engaged Jane Wilcox to teach school in a shanty pertaining to the mills. Miss Wilcox later became the wife of Ezra Bement, and lived in Orleans.

There were at that time no persons engaged in agriculture in this section of the township. The first minister who preached in this section was Reverend Allen, who for some time visited the mill regularly every two weeks and conducted religious services. The mill had in the meantime

passed through many different hands, but had been little changed. In 1870 James Caward built an addition to it, which was the first improvement made on it for many years. The same year Henry Smith and J. M. Fuller opened a store in a building previously built by James Caward for a repair shop.

Alexander Hewitt succeeded them in about a year. In 1871 the Detroit, Lansing & Northern railway was completed through the township, and James Gowen, having purchased the mill property from the Flat River Boon Company, platted the village which bears his name. The first train that passed over the road after its completion brought brick for the large hotel at this village. It was the first brick hotel in the county, and with its furniture cost fifteen thousand dollars.

James Gowen, who may properly be considered the founder of the village, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. Previous to his settlement in Montcalm he had been engaged principally in taking contracts on large public improvements, among which were the tunnel under the lake at Chicago and several other similar works at Cincinnati and in the East.

Gowen first bore the name of Gregor's Mill, and later this was dropped for Kaywood. Just why this latter name was given or with what it originated is not known to the writer. The name Gowen was given the village at the time of its platting on November 17, 1871. It was named in honor of its senior proprietor, Col. James Gowen. Henry M. Fuller was a partner in the platting and laying out of this town, which was done by E. H. Jones, surveyor.

This village, although the only one in Montcalm township, has never attained the size and proportion which was hoped for by the original proprietors. Gowen is a convenient business center for the farmers of this township. The business houses cater especially to this class of trade and the life of the town is maintained through these efforts.

CHAPTER XVII.

PIERSON TOWNSHIP.

Pierson was the eleventh township formed in the county and is situated in the northwestern part, in that section which originally, when the county was first organized, consisted of townships 11 and 12 north, ranges 9 and 10 west. This territory later was divided and formed the townships of Reynolds, Winfield and Maple Valley, thus reducing Pierson to its present limits. Pierson was officially organized on February 17, 1857, but the original petition for the erection of this township has been misplaced and the names of the original signers cannot be given. It is also noteworthy that there is no record made on the minutes of the board of supervisors for the erection of this township. The last minutes for this board are dated on January 7, 1857, and the next meeting is dated October 11, 1858, thus skipping the meeting which organized this township. As reduced to its present limits it is bounded on the north by Reynolds, on the east by Maple Valley, on the south by Kent county and on the west by Nawaygo county. It was named after the family name of Martin Pierson, as several members of that family were its first settlers. The best farming lands in this township are situated in the southern and northeastern part. In the eastern part is a low and wet portion of land, covering the greater part of a number of sections and extending northwest towards Wood lake, which is situated in section 15. This lower land is usually known as Bear swamp, and takes its name, presumably, from a large bear which had its retreat there and is supposed to have escaped the hunters for a number of years—but this is more or less traditional. The western part of the township contains a system of lakes which are drained by a branch of the Tamarack river.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES.

Section 1—Peter Sanborn, Warren Wellman. Section 2—Amos Rice, Emanuel Fralick, Rufus Reed, John Field. Section 3—Amos Rice. Section 4—Peter R. Howe, Edward Harvey. Section 5—Elias Alley. Section 6—John Moore, William H. Erving, Ira Carpenter, William Hillman,

Elias Andrews, William Rogers, Ebenezer Simons, Willis Turner, Benjamin Carpenter. Section 7—Benjamin Ensley. Section 8—Andrew Harpending, Alvah Trowbridge, James Bradshaw, Daniel Shook, Peter J. Van Bensekom. Section 9—Orin T. Rice, Elias Alley. Section 10—Levi Struble, Orin Rice, Elias Alley, Kendrick Rice, Otis Wilson, William Bader. Section 11—John Ross, Salisbury Negus, Ananias Worden, J. S. Ferguson. Section 12—Warren Wellman, Jeremiah M. Field, William Warren, Edwin S. Parish, Seth Beal, Alexander Watts, Johnson B. Reese, James Hart, S. Hellonsfield. Section 13—Robert C. Fletcher, Elias R. Ferguson, Thomas Plumb, Alvin Davis, Thomas N. Robinson, Henry Hankle, William Dowlman, Mary Stewart, Fred C. Papke. Section 14—George Wood, George L. Clark, Ira Abbott, Donald McDonald, James L. Helmer, E. L. Gray, Alanson Stoddard. Section 15—Ira Abbott, Henry M. Carpenter, Joseph Cram. Section 16—Daniel Cram, George B. Morrikle, Charles W. Rogus, Isaiah Alley, Henry Wood, Theron J. Fox, Henry Rinyon, David Courser. Section 17—Andrew Harpending, Alvah Trowbridge, George Bank. Section 18—Charles Holmes, Peter S. Cain, Timothy M. Eddy, Samuel Cornell, Welcome W. Johnson, Aaron Carpenter, Frederick Hall. Section 19—Lorenzo Rider, Charles Holmes. Section 20—Andrew Harpending, Alvah Trowbridge, Volney Cawkins, Charles Edmunds, Nathaniel Smith. Section 21—Alvah Trowbridge, William H. Melock, Wiley R. Reynolds, Lewis Snyder, John Van Vleet, James Rice, John Rice, Isaiah Alley, George Pratt, Nathaniel Smith. Section 22—Lewis Melosh, Caleb B. Rice, Isaiah Muntley, Benjamin Nevs, David Preston, George P. Gates, Morton W. English, Ransom E. Wood. Section 23—Henry Van Steenburg, James H. Brayman, Morton W. English, David Cram, Julius E. Field, Ransom E. Wood, James H. Field, Simon Sanges, J. H. Cram, L. B. Potter. Section 24—Milton H. Butler, David Douglass, William Fuller, William Veach, William Edwards, Henry Henkle, Martin Weller, Hiram Bicknell, Fred F. Taylor, Daniel Abrey, Wellington Copeman, John Bicknell. Section 25—Milton H. Butler, William Edwards. Section 26—Jacob G. Crane, Gilbert E. Fish, Sanford Himes, John Edwards, George M. Pratt, Jefferson Brown, Degress Fish. Section 27—Stephen R. Pierson, David S. Pierson, Thomas Peck, Luther M. Carpenter, James Neve, Edward Neve, Mary Neve, Frederick Hall, Dexter Clark, Harriet Clark, Ransom E. Wood, Jacob Huckelbury. Section 28—Alvah Trowbridge, Wiley R. Reynolds, John Van Vleet, Orison A. Pierson, David Pierson, E. H. Jones and Joseph Shearer, George M. Pierson. Section 29—Andrew Harpending, Alvah Trowbridge, Leonidas

Scranton, Lorenzo J. Rider, Lewis Melosh, Stephen F. Page, W. G. Philips. Section 30—Lorenzo Rider, George W. Pangborn, Elisha Pangborn, John Van Saw, Haskell S. Pangborn, Welcome Johnson. Section 31—James Cavener, Lorenzo J. Rider, Stephen F. Page, Abisher Green, Stephen Page, Mary Darling. Section 32—Alvah Trowbridge, Nathan Burroughs, James A. Ingall, Benjamin D. Bradley, Chester Conant, Eli Bellus, Charles Bennett, James A. Devins, William Stewart, Francis G. Pierce. Section 33—George Pierson, Goodwin Havey, Byron H. Weed, George M. Pierson. Section 34—Byron H. Weed, John Van Vleet, Lewis Rice, Jacob Huckelbury, Ira C. Carpenter, Ludden I. Romans, Binri Menhaut, Thomas Huckelbury, James R. Bradley, Bradley Smith, Jacob Hucklebury. Section 35—Thomas F. Girls, Milton H. Butler, Florence A. Phillips, Aaron Edgar. Section 36—Thomas Girls, Milton Butler, David Preston.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

In the year 1852 Stephen R. Pierson settled in the township of North Plains, Ionia county. He was a native of Ontario county, New York. Two years later, influenced by favorable reports from him and a gentleman from Cortland, Michigan, two other brothers, David and Orson Pierson, and their father, started from New York with a team of horses, by which they journeyed to Buffalo, where they took passage to Detroit, Michigan. Upon reaching that place they again had recourse to their team, and drove through to the home of their brother in Ionia county. As government or state lands were the object of their visit, they came to town 11 north, range 10 west, and entered one hundred and sixty acres on sections 27 and 28. Although other tracts were soon entered, it is thought to have been the first entry made in the township. They built a cabin, twenty by twenty-four feet in dimensions, one story high, with a roof sloping one way, the ceiling being so low as to allow a man scarce room to stand erect in. This cabin stood on the farm of Orson Pierson, and was the first built in this township.

On the 14th of December, 1854, George M. Pierson, having sent on some household goods, with a wife and four small children, left his home in New York and set out on his journey to join the settlement commenced by his brothers in Michigan. Kalamazoo was at that time the nearest railroad station. They, therefore, took the stage at that place, and Grand Rapids being the end of the line, made the rest of the journey in a lumber wagon. The cabin of his brother, being the only one in the township, was already filled to overflowing. The new party increased the company to eighteen. A

wagon box served as one bed, while those not so fortunate were stowed away as best they could be. The different families, however, soon built cabins on the land which they at once secured.

In the latter part of January, 1855, Milford Pierson was born, being the first white child born in Pierson township. George M. Pierson built the next cabin in the township. Having no team, the work of clearing, which he soon began, was necessarily slow and difficult. In addition, he was compelled to spend much of his time away from home in order to procure the necessities of life. When he moved into his cabin it had neither door nor window—blankets, hung before the openings, serving for this purpose. The snow lay several feet deep. On the 6th of March, Charles M. Pierson was born, being the second child in the township.

During the first winter, George M. Pierson made shingles, which he hauled to Rockford and sold for ten shillings per thousand, and at the same time paid five dollars per hundredweight for flour; but the woods abounded in game, deer especially being abundant, and from this source supplies were secured.

Round lake, also, on the southeast quarter of section 33, as well as the larger bodies of water more remote from the settlement, abounded in schools of fish, which with little trouble could be secured at all times. George M. Pierson during the greater part of the time for five years was absent, except during Sunday, his work being about sixteen miles distant. He carried home on each successive Saturday night provisions for his family the week following. He dug up the ground with a mattock, and on that ground raised one hundred bushels of corn and sixty bushels of potatoes. The first year a large bear carried off a hog to the woods and devoured it while Mr. Pierson was absent from home. Six others were lost in the same way.

At the time of settlement the nearest trading post was Rockford. Mrs. G. M. Pierson resided in the township eight years before visiting a dry-goods store. Her sister, Polly Malvina Peck, who came to the township with her and lived here during the first years of its settlement, moved to the south part of the state. Their father, Thomas Peck, came to Pierson some years later and settled on section 27, and there he resided until his death. The first death in Pierson was that of a young man named Fish, who was accidentally shot by Hardy Cram. He was interred on the farm owned by George Pratt, from which he was removed to the cemetery at a later day.

The first wedding in Pierson was in 1856, when Isaiah Alley and Naomi Barker were married. Squire Panches, of Nelson, officiated. Dr. Daniel Shook was the first resident physician. He was born in Dutchess county,

New York, and after practicing in his native county and Canada, settled in the north part of Pierson in the year 1862. He moved to Coral in 1877.

Caleb Rice was one of the first settlers in the north part of Pierson. He was born in New York, whence he came to this township in the fall of 1855. His father, Amos L. Rice, entered the southwest quarter of section 2 the spring previous. He settled here permanently, and resided here until his death. The spring following their settlement here they set out the first fruit trees in the place.

George M. and John Fields settled on the southeast quarter of section 12, in February, 1856. Rufus Reed entered the west half of the southeast quarter of section 2. Soon after Mr. Rice had built his cabin his son-in-law, G. M. Pratt, came to the township. He chose a location on section 5 and commenced to erect a mill, which he subsequently sold to Harvey Porter, who completed it some years later. It was the first grist-mill in Pierson township.

VILLAGE OF PIERSON.

The village of Pierson is located on land entered by David S. Pierson and Dexter Clark, who were for many years residents of the township. When the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad was completed through Pierson, this village and another in the north part of the township were laid out. Neither attained any special importance or size.

O. H. Richmond opened the first store in Pierson, in 1867. The building which he erected stood on the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of section 27. This building was destroyed by fire.

In 1868, C. O. Taylor built a hotel, usually known as the Taylor House. Some years later he built an addition and then sold it to Otis Buck.

Dr. H. F. Kilborn was a native of Canada, and came to Pierson in 1869. He was the first physician in the village, but remained only a short time, when he removed to New York. Drs. D. Everett, H. D. Holden and Col. D. Johnson followed. The Pierson hotel was built by Richard Gage. In 1870 McConnell & Sons, of Elkhart county, Indiana, built a saw-mill at this place. It turned out, on an average, three millions of feet per year. In 1877 this firm erected the Empire Flouring Mills, of Pierson, at a cost of ten thousand dollars. It had a capacity of seventy-five barrels of flour.

Pierson was platted and laid out on October 18, 1870, for David S. Pierson, John L. Shaw and Dexter Clark, proprietors, by William Thorton, surveyor. This was the largest lumber center in Pierson township, but of

the history of the town from the time it was platted up to the present is merely a restatement of the history of any lumber town or camp during the time when the lumber industry was at its zenith. This was a prosperous village, but when this business was exhausted the prosperity of Pierson waned. At present Pierson is a small village. It is a station on the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad and the business interests of the town consist of three stores and two elevators. It is a small trading point where the people in the south part of the township can do their trading, although it is too close to Howard City to draw very extensively. At present it has a population of seventy-five.

OTHER VILLAGES.

Pierson township bears the honor, if that it might be called, of having the largest number of towns within its territory. In all there have been five towns platted and laid out in this township, namely: Pierson, Maple Hill, Sand Lake, Wood Lake, and Whitefish Lake. All of these, with the exception of Whitefish Lake, are located on the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad.

Maple Hill, which lies in the southwest corner of section 2, was platted on October 22, 1870, for Caleb B. and William Price, proprietors, by Edward H. Jones, surveyor. This was the location of a saw-mill, which did a lucrative business for many years, but as far as the village goes, it never attained a great size. A store was kept for the accommodation of the employees of the mill and this had a fairly good trade at that time. There is one store located in Maple Hill now, but the major percentage of the business in this part of the township is carried on in Howard City.

Wood Lake lies to the south of Maple Hill, in the southeastern corner of section 15, on the lake which bears the same name. This town, or village, was platted on March 21, 1870, for Henry M. Carpenter, proprietor, by Edward H. Jones, surveyor. Wood Lake, which is now called Hiram, never attained any great prominence in the township. It now contains only an ice house for the storage of ice taken from Wood lake. There are only a few dwellings left, and it is served by the rural route from Howard City.

Whitefish Lake, which is the largest resort in Montcalm county, was platted and recorded at two different times, namely: October 4, 1906, and August 14, 1907. The former plat was made for H. E. and T. Campbell, while the latter was made for James A. and Mary A. Skinner. Both of these plats were surveyed and laid out by J. E. Daoust, surveyor. Whitefish Lake resort lies on the east side of Whitefish lake, in section 20, and two

miles west of Pierson, which is the nearest railroad station. During the summer, crowds of picknickers, campers, and persons desiring quiet and rest for a few weeks visit this resort.

Sand Lake has its major portion in Kent county, although one plat has been made and recorded in this county, but this part of the town does not attain prominence enough to deserve a lengthy discourse in this chapter.

CHAPTER XVIII.

PINE TOWNSHIP.

Pine township, which is designated on the government survey as township 11 north, range 8 west, is bounded on the north by Cato township, on the east by Douglass, on the south by Montcalm and on the west by Maple Valley. The petition asking for the erection of Pine township was dated on April 25, 1861, and bore the following signatures: Daniel Lang, Hiram Hull, S. P. Youngman, Anthony Platte, E. B. Galley, Ira Hale, James Stuart, Samuel Kelley, George Main, W. R. Martin, Samuel Sanborn, A. S. French, James Orcutt, O. H. Stryker, James A. Owens, D. R. Hart, Stephen Aldrich, George Wallace, Bent Persons, M. C. Comber, A. Wakeman, G. R. Hart, A. W. Addam and L. Tuttle. The signers of this petition were freeholders of townships 11 and 12 north, ranges 7 and 8 west. This petition was presented to the board of supervisors at their regular session held in June, 1861, and asked that township 11 north, ranges 7 and 8 west, be detached from the township of Cato and organized into a separate township to be known as Pine. The notice of this petition was printed in the *Greenville Independent*.

After due consideration the board of supervisors granted the prayer of the petitioners and erected the township of Pine on the 16th of October, 1861, at their regular October session. They also ordered that the first election be held at the house of A. W. Addam, and that David Lang, David R. Hart and A. W. Addam act as presiding officers at this meeting. The name of the newly created township was selected, as can readily be seen, from the leading variety of its timber, and was chosen by one of the committee named to draft the petition for the erection of the township. At the first election, held in April, 1862, there were just nineteen votes cast, and of this election the following was the result: Supervisor, Joseph Wilcox; clerk, Daniel Lang; treasurer, Stephen Aldrich; justices of the peace, Stephen Aldrich, Benajah Persens and Alfred Wakeman; highway commissioners, Alfred Wakeman and Isaac Hart; constables, Benjamin Persens and Sylvester Rockafellow. It is rather interesting to note that there were ten offices to fill and only nineteen voters in all, and there were two offices filled by the same men.

The soil in Pine township in general is a light sandy loam, and as the name indicates, the prevailing timber is pine, with a mixture of beech and maple. The south part is hilly, and in places so rough as to be of little value for farming purposes. In the northwestern part the surface is more level, the timber consisting principally of the wardwood varieties, and the soil clayey and better adapted to the pursuits of agriculture.

On the southwest quarter of section 26 the Flat river, which flows in a southwesterly direction across the township, entering on section 24 and leaving it on section 34, is dammed, and furnishes an excellent water-power. The outlet of the small lake on the southeast quarter of section 21 forms a power in the same locality. Near the center of section 28 the outlet of Horseshoe lake furnishes another good power. Thus the south part is furnished with three good motors, which for many years were utilized in the manufacture of lumber. These, in connection with several steam mills and others that were operated from time to time, and the Flat river, which heretofore bore large quantities of logs from its immediate vicinity, have cleared the township of its once beautiful and extensive tracts of pine, which were among the finest in the county.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES IN PINE.

Section 1—Oscar Cargill, Jacob A. Davis, John J. Ely, Lucius Stanley.
Section 2—Jacob A. Davis, Samuel M. Biggs, Lucius Stanley, Richard Choenly, Emmerson H. Gallea, M. L. Hooker. Section 3—Asa Davis, Henry H. Crapo, B. Penniman, Edmund Hall. Section 4—George Macomber, Henry H. Crapo, B. Penniman. Section 5—George Macomber, Edmund Hall. Section 6—Alfred Waterman, Sylvester Rockafeller, Lewis E. Smith, James Stark, Albert and Edwin Dorr, James Porter. Section 8—George Macomber, Josiah H. Jackson, Luther M. Berry. Section 9—George Macomber, Henry H. Crapo, B. Penniman. Section 10—Abel Avery, H. H. Crapo, B. Penniman. Section 11—James O. Edwards, Jacob A. Davis, Stephen Page, Jacob Davis. Section 12—Oscar J. Cargill, Reuben S. Klac, Joseph Sook, Alfred Mundy, D. W. Morse. Section 13—Loren Curtis, Stephen Page, Josiah Russell. Section 14—Josiah Russell, Stephen Page, Jacob A. Davis, Hiram E. Russell. Section 15—Hiram Russell, Andrew Russell, Stephen Page, Abel Avery. Section 16—Lorenzo H. Brooks, Lewis E. Smith. Section 17—Josiah Russell. Section 18—Louis S. Lovell. Section 19—Harrison Morgan, Louis S. Lovell, George Macomber. Section 20—Josiah Russell, D. W. Morse. Section 21—Josiah Russell, Louis Lovell,

Carso Crane, John Haire, Ira Burnham. Section 22—Oscar Cargill, Hiram E. Russell, Stephen Page, William Patrick, Asa Palmer, James M. Ferris. Section 23—Oscar F. Cargill, Alvin Berry, Stephen Page, Jacob Davis. Section 24—N. Slaght, Daniel Moore, Benjamin Knight, Alvin Berry. Section 25—George Loucks, Jacob A. Davis. Section 26—Volney Belden, John C. Blanchard, John Green, John Lewis, Josiah Russell, John Lewis, Josiah Russell, John Green. Section 27—George Loucks, Abel Avery, Oscar Cargill, Henry Stringham, George Loucks, Joseph Stearns, Josiah Russell, Stephen P. Page. Section 28—George Loucks and William E. Gregory, Henry M. Moore, Stephen Page, Kpsoaj Russell, Louis Lavell, P. Seymour, Samuel Butler, A. Litchfield, Charles Seymour. Section 29—Josiah Russell. Section 30—Loren Curtis, George Loucks, Harrison Morgan, Louis Lovell. Section 31—George Loucks, Louis Lovell, Jacob A. Davis and John Clark. Section 32—Hiram E. Russell, Louis Lovell, Jacob A. Davis, John Clark, Josiah Jackson. Section 33—Henry Moore, George O. Russell, Josiah Russell, Louis Lovell, Jacob A. Davis, John Clark, Charles J. Church, William Van Loo. Section 34—George Loucks, Eliphalet Gregory, Charles Seymour. Section 35—Josiah Russell, Jacob A. Davis, David Hart. Section 36—Jacob A. Davis, William Burt, Daniel W. McLeon.

THE LUMBERING INTERESTS.

The development of the lumbering interests was the occasion of the first improvements in the township of Pine. About the year 1851-52 an association of men known as the John Green Company, and composed of John Green, Abel French, Josiah Russell and Charles C. Ellsworth, came into the township, and with a force of men at once began preparations for erecting a saw-mill. There was at this time no settler nor human habitation, aside from those of the Indians, within its confines. It was necessary, therefore, that cabins for the men be first built, which, when erected, were only of a temporary character, as the company purposed building more permanent quarters as soon as lumber could be manufactured. The river was soon dammed, though not substantially, as it subsequently washed out, a frame was erected, and one saw set in operation. The cabins built at this time were the first in the township, and stood east of the mill, near the bank. The following Christmas another saw was added, and the force of men was increased. Isaac Hart, who died in the war, was the sawyer of the upright saw; a Mr. Smead was foreman of the circular saw. The company failed in about two years and the mill passed into the hands of Eastern parties.

Josiah Russell, who was a man of considerable means and owned large tracts of land in various localities, subsequently removed to the North, where he died. John Green was a resident of Greenville, and is spoken of more fully in another part of this work. His son, John Green, Jr., owned a saw-mill in the western part of Sidney. Abel French afterward became a resident of Cato, where he lived many years.

Among the many who owned the mill property at Langston were George Saux, of Greenville, and Edwin Breese. It next came into the possession of a firm in Grand Rapids. It was later owned by D. J. Brown.

AGRICULTURE BEGUN IN PINE TOWNSHIP.

The first settler who came into Pine intending to engage in agriculture was Alfred Wakeman. He settled on the south half of the southwest quarter of section 6, some years after the settlement in the southeastern part of the township began. He was followed soon afterward by James Starks and T. O. Berry, both of whom settled on section 6.

While the mill before referred to was yet in possession of Edwin Breese, Daniel Lang, from Steuben county, New York, came in to take charge and oversee the work. But scarce a year had elapsed when Mr. Breese failed, and Mr. Lang was compelled to look about, as were all the employees, for occupation elsewhere. It was not in Montcalm in those days as at present. Work could not always be secured for the asking; indeed, in the earlier years of its settlement, work at times could not be secured on any terms. The state road from Greenville to Big Rapids had already been established, and travel over this route had become steady and constantly increasing.

A SUCCESSFUL HOTEL.

Daniel Lang, therefore, put up a small frame building, and commenced keeping hotel on a small scale. It was the second frame house in the township, the first being built near the mill by the mill company. The enterprise was entirely successful, and increased patronage rendered it necessary that Mr. Lang should soon build an addition, which he accordingly did. The more additions he built (and they were attached, additions upon additions, until, as was remarked, his house in the twilight, looked like a castle on the Rhine—and he despaired of furnishing ample accommodations at all times), the more popular the hotel and its proprietor became. When, anticipating that the travel would possibly shift to another route, he decided to build no

more, his hotel was the largest between Greenville and Big Rapids. When the highway from Grand Rapids to this village became the general line of travel, and other routes connected with it, the decline in business anticipated by Mr. Lang came in fact, and this thoroughfare to the north, upon which at all hours of the day, and lasting late into the night, the halloo of teamsters and the crack of their whips could be heard, became almost deserted. The completion of the railroads to the northeast and west also tended to this result. Daniel Lang died in 1869.

Henry Caukins was also prominently connected with the early development of this township. He was considered the best informed in regard to land boundaries, section lines, etc., of any man in this section of the state. He became a resident, and lived here a number of years, filling the office of town clerk several terms in succession. He surveyed nearly all the land in this section, and also platted the village of Langston.

Nathan H. Briggs and his elder brother, Hiram, was a native of New York, whence, with his parents, he moved to Medina county, Ohio, when that county was yet comparatively new. In 1837 the family moved into Livingston county, Michigan, then an almost unbroken wilderness, the nearest neighbor being several miles distant. There his parents settled permanently. In 1851 the brothers referred to came to Pine, intending to spend a part of the winter hunting game. Nathan H. Briggs was at that time twenty-one years of age and unmarried, and had no thought of making it his home. By Christmas forty-four deer had fallen by his rifle, and he estimated that he killed no less than two hundred within the confines of the township of Pine. Another brother, Zenas Briggs, who came in 1862 and engaged in lumbering, later engaged in farming.

In November of 1861 Joseph Wilcox came to Pine from Greenville, where he had settled four years previous. He then became prominently connected with its official interests, being elected supervisor at the first town meeting.

FIRST POSTOFFICE IN PINE.

The first postoffice in Pine township was kept in the house of Nathan H. Briggs—Henry W. Caukins being postmaster and Mr. Briggs deputy—in 1863. Previous to this time the most convenient office for this section was Greenville. The mail route at this time extended from that village to Big Rapids, over which the mail passed once a week, being carried on horseback. When the roads became impassable, it was taken on foot. The office was subsequently removed to Daniel Lang's hotel, and next to the store of

Mr. Gage, who came in and rented a store building erected by Zenas Briggs. Gage opened a general stock of goods, but in a single year removed his stock from the township. In 1857 Charles Palmer started a blacksmith shop. He soon sold to Christopher Lipscomb, a gunsmith.

The second store was opened by J. D. Norton and R. F. Sprague. Norton, who later engaged in banking, soon sold to Sprague, who conducted the business very successfully for about three years, when he sold out to Bennett & Mills and moved to Greenville. The sales of Norton and Sprague were immense, considering the times, aggregating fifty thousand dollars per annum. The large store-room on the northwest corner was built by Thomas K. Ward, and was known as the Ward block. It was sixty by eighty feet on the ground, and three stories high. The lower floor was intended for store rooms, the second floor for offices, and the third floor for a large hall. The building was not, however, entirely completed according to original designs.

The Briggs hotel was built by Benjamin Briggs, who came to the township in 1866 and engaged first in the mercantile business. A small hotel had been erected by Christopher Lipscomb on the site later occupied by the fine hotel known as the Briggs House, after its first proprietor. It cost about five thousand dollars. When these buildings were erected there was strong anticipation that the railroad which passes through to the westward would come to Langston. In the fall of 1865 the firm of Price & Kendall erected a saw-mill in the north part of the township, their lands lying principally on sections 5 and 8. They started with a small portable mill and employed but few men. Soon, however, they enlarged the mill and introduced new and improved machinery and employed twenty-five men. The mill, with its surroundings, had the appearance of quite a village, and received the name of Kendallville, from one of the proprietors.

The first school in Pine township was taught by Jennie Lang, in an unoccupied room of David Hart's house, in the summer of 1858. Miss Lang received one dollar and fifty cents per week. The term lasted three months, and the attendance was ten. Joseph Wilcox built the first school house in the township.

Kendallville was never platted and was only one of the many lumber camps which were located in this county at that early date. There was a saw-mill, as was previously mentioned, with some eight or ten dwellings for the lumbermen. With the exhaustion of the timber this camp ceased to exist as a village.

LANGSTON.

Langston is the only town in Pine township which was ever platted and at the present time is only a hamlet. It was platted on the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 26 and also a part of the adjoining section. This was recorded as Irving's plat of the village of Langston and was surveyed and laid out on April 15, 1870, by Henry W. Cankin. The original proprietors of this village were Hugh Irving, Electra J. Lipscomb, Benjamin H. Briggs, Jr., Zenas E. Briggs, Henry T. Clark and Thomas R. White. There were at the time of the platting the streets of Main, A, B, C, and River, with First, Second, Third and Fourth as cross streets. There have been two additions to this original plat: That of Bloombergs, which was surveyed on April 22, 1871, and that of Avery & Cankin, which was surveyed on April 28, 1871.

Langston began its career when the timber industry was at the zenith of its operations and was one of the most flourishing of the lumber towns. Situated, as it is, in the central part of a township which bears its name on account of the kind of timber which covered it, there is no great explanation necessary to show the origin and early growth of this village. It is situated on the banks of Flat river, which at that time was the chief river highway down which the logs were rafted. Mills abounded here and it was truly the type of a lumber camp as depicted by Ralph O'Connor and others. But with the exhaustion of the timber this village began to decrease in population, and having no natural resource and not even a railroad, it went down very rapidly. There are at present about one hundred inhabitants in the village, and owing to the fact that this township has produced some excellent farming lands the town has proved a trading center. There are two general stores at present, owned by L. L. Hinkey & Company and Carlos Dennison. There are also two blacksmith shops, which are managed by Henry Spicer and a Mr. Allen. This village is served by mail on the rural route from Stanton and Gowen.

CHAPTER XIX.

REYNOLDS TOWNSHIP.

Reynolds township, which is designated on the government survey as town 12 north, range 10 west, is situated in the extreme northwestern corner of the county. This bears the distinction of being the nineteenth township organized in the county, Richland alone being organized at a later date. Reynolds is bounded on the north by Mecosta county, on the east by Winfield township, on the south by Pierson township, and on the west by Newaygo county. Reynolds township was officially organized by the board of supervisors on March 30, 1869. It is a rather queer stroke of fate that the minutes of the supervisors of the county for this meeting are missing, as also is the original petition asking for the creation of this township, thus it is impossible to give the names of the persons desiring the organization of a new township. This is the second township for which the minutes bearing on the creation have been destroyed, or rather the clerk failed to enter them in the minute book—in this instance there are no minutes from December 30, 1868, to October 11, 1869.

The first meeting was held at the house of David Swarthout, but through some misunderstanding the voters of the township did not assemble at the time appointed by the board of supervisors, and the organization was not, therefore, completed until May 17, 1869, when in accordance with a notice duly given, the electors assembled and elected the necessary officers according to law. J. H. Maze and John Moore, who had been regularly appointed inspectors of election, being absent, Harry Stevens and Abel F. Stevens were appointed in their stead. David Swarthout was appointed chairman, and Horatio L. Wheeler, clerk. The whole number of votes cast was thirty-two.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES.

Section 1—David Hoag, Abijah Paynter. Section 2—Aloney Rust, James W. Sanborn, Peter Sanborn, William W. Squires, Abijah Paynter, Robert P. Mitchel, Nelson Higbee, James M. Turner. Section 3—James W. Sanborn, Peter Sanborn, Allen Wright. Section 4—Gideon Truesdell,

Joseph H. Huckley, Jeremiah Ryan, David Rice, Robert H. Smith, Martin Parkhurst, Brigham Barnes, Jerome Dickenson, Albert Pope, Jacob Smith. Section 5—George Gilmore. Section 6—Henry Gilmore, George Gilmore, William Harris, James Allen, Lyeander W. De Clair, John C. Williams, Jacob Thatcher. Section 7—Lysander Quigley, James Allen. Section 8—Marshall Stark, John Hawley, A. Mosher, Albert Mosher, Henry D. Cilley, Albert G. Fey, Sylvester Benton, Nicholas W. Gahilson. Section 9—Henry Stevens, Walter Sull, Galen Eastman, Marshall Stark. Section 10—Peter Sanborn, Walter Sull, Galen Eastman, Franklin Smith, Harry Stevens. Section 11—Peter Sanborn, Franklin Smith, Abijah Paynter. Section 12—Edgar L. Gray, David D. Goag, Abijah Paynter, John F. Ganwiler, Martin Ryerson, R. W. Morris. Section 13—Abijah Paynter, Marshall Stark, John Squires, Edgar Gray, Electa Jane Simmons, J. Morrison. Section 14—James Buley, Eli Fradenburgh, Alexander Lucas, Joseph Lucas, Harry Stevens. Section 16—Merritt Hallocks, William Rice, Alanson Orton, Augustus Paddock, James Herron, Stephen C. Hall, Gerrett Ward. Section 17—Jefferson Morrison. Section 18—Wallace R. Page, Jefferson Morris, Dan Lant, Jacob P. Oswalt, John Newman. Section 19—Patrick Lynch, Louis Swell, Richard Dye, John Lynch. Section 20—Josiah Stevens, Amos Stevens, Aaron Hallock, Eli Hallock, Samuel Sanger, Horatio L. Wheeler, Harry Havel, Erastus A. Hand, Henry Lahym, Samuel Working, Anthony Hall, Samuel Hasker. Section 22—Orville Thompson, Edwin Thompson, John Hawkey, Alfred Scott, Monzo M. Carrier, Miron Carrier, Augustus McKinney, Henry Scott, Arthur B. Scott. Section 23—John Squires. Section 24—Peter Sanborn, Arabut Smith, Byron Squires, John D. Borden, Jeremiah Ryan, Edgar L. Gray, John F. Gauweiler, Chauncey Davis. Section 25—Peter Sanborn. Section 26—Peter Sanborn, Martin Ryerson, Robert Morris, John F. Ganwiler, Aaron McKinney, Harry Stevens. Section 28—John Blanchard, Levi L. Trott, Martin Ryerson, Robert Morris, Vincent J. Goldsmith, William H. Ames, Harry R. Stevens, Lucius Ames, David Swarthout, A. F. Stevens, Aaron Wooden. Section 29—John C. Blanchard. Section 30—George Bankart, Louis Swell, Richard Dye, John D. Borden, James H. Bush, Harry Shimmmons, Newell Stevens. Section 31—John Moore, Albert Robertson. Section 32—George Bankart, Lorenzo Rider, John C. Blanchard, Merritt Halleck, Ezra L. Reynolds, Horatio W. Smith, Thomas Hill. Section 33—Allen Wright, John Blanchard. Section 34—Allen Wright, Eli Hallock, Levi Leonard, Howard Bradley, William Glover, Henry Graves. Section 36—Peter Sanborn.

STREAMS AND SOIL.

The entire surface of the township, as the streams indicate, slopes in general to the westward towards the Muskegon river, into which empties Tamarack creek and Little river, which streams drain the township of Reynolds. The latter of these enters the township on section 3, from Mecosta county, and flows in a southwesterly course across sections 8, 9, 10, 17 and 18, from which it enters Newago county. It also makes a slight curve into the northwest quarter of section 16. Stephen creek, the outlet of the small lake on the line of Reynolds and Winfield, enters Little river on section 17.

Tamarack creek, entering on section 36 and passing into Newago county on section 30, flows through sections 23, 26, 27, 33 and 32. It receives two small streams from the south, which flow through sections 32 and 33. Another stream flows through sections 1, 2, 3 and 10. The township is, therefore, well drained and watered.

The soil of the greater part is light, sandy loam, and in places is not productive. There are, however, some good farming lands, but they were originally covered with a heavy growth of pine, and no considerable advance was made in agriculture until the completion of the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad.

THE LUMBER INDUSTRY.

The settlement of Reynolds had made no considerable progress previous to the platting of Howard City and the organization of the township, it having been a part of Pierson until the year 1869. At that time there were but thirty-two resident voters in the township, and the larger portion of them were engaged in lumbering or working in the saw-mill built by Harvey R. Stevens on section 32. This was the first mill in Reynolds. The long distance over which the settlers were compelled to haul lumber for all building purposes previous to the building of this mill, and the ready means it afforded for clearing land, by making the labor necessary to that end profitable, rendered it of particular benefit to the settlers who now began to come to the township. Its growth has since been comparatively rapid.

This mill passed into the possession of Conner & Aimy, and was operated until 1873, when it burned. Another, built on the same site, was also destroyed by fire and has never been rebuilt. In 1869 A. R. Stevens commenced a shingle-mill also, but before completing it he sold a half interest to David Lord. This gentleman, with J. K. Kipp, built a saw-mill on section

33. The streams at this time were being made use of by mill companies at Muskegon for the purpose of rafting large quantities of logs from Reynolds and other townships to the East and North. For this purpose the streams were dammed, and thus large tracts of land were overflowed and rendered practically worthless.

The firm of Kipp & Lord was the first to declare war against what they considered an imposition, and when the Muskegon companies commenced to raft logs they very promptly signified their intention to dispute the usurpation. The Boom Company, of Muskegon sent men, it is asserted, to tear away the dam of the mill company. Mr. Kipp, with some instrument at hand from the mill, took his position above the men who were about to remove some of the timbers. His resolute demeanor was so suggestive of what they might expect if they persisted in trespassing upon his property that they sent away for reinforcements. The case was taken into the courts, and passed from one tribunal to another, until the township was finally freed from this nuisance of raising and lowering the waters in its streams. The malaria arising from covering large tracts with water, and then exposing them to the sun in the summer, almost universally resulted in fever and ague.

HOWARD CITY.

The village of Howard City was platted in 1868 by E. W. Muencher, the civil engineer of the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad. The principal part of the village is situated on the north half of the northeast quarter of section 3, and the south half of the southeast quarter of section 26. Benjamin Ensley, an early settler near the east line of Muskegon county, and who at the time the railroad was completed owned a number of tracts of land in this vicinity, was the original founder of the village. The side tracks of the railroad were completed, and in August, 1869, the depot erected. This was the first house built within the limits of the village, and besides these improvements there was no sign of a settlement here or break or clearing in the primeval solitudes. The company stationed a man named Spencer at this place, but he was soon superseded by William Edmondson, who, with his family, occupied the depot, and who, seeing that travel was constantly increasing, prepared to entertain as many guests as his limited accommodations would allow. This branch of the business seems to have been both agreeable and remunerative to him, since in the fall he built (for a hotel) a small house, which with many modifications, later served as the wing of the Coburn's Exchange. It was not originally a pretentious edifice, or very

comfortable in winter, but it answered the purpose for which it was intended and was the first business place in Howard City.

The village, however, had an early rival. In the winter of 1869-70, J. K. Kipp, Harvey R. Stevens and a man named Blaisdell formed an association, intending to start a village on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 23, on the line of the railroad and about one mile north of Howard City. This land was owned by Harvey R. Stevens. Blaisdell, being a conductor on the railroad, it was thought that through his influence they would be able to secure a station and switch. These preliminary arrangements were entirely successful. The state road to connect with a similar highway from Grand Rapids to Big Rapids had already been completed some distance east from Muskegon, and the projectors of the new village at once set about to secure it. In this, too, they were successful, much to the disappointment of those interested in the prosperity of Howard City, and lots in Reynolds began to be in demand with those seeking business locations. Several were sold and one purchaser, Orin Andrews, erected a store building. In the meantime the company were not idle. They began active preparations to receive and set a portable saw-mill in operation in order to supply with lumber those wishing to build. This being done, the success of the enterprise was looked upon as assured, while the prospects of Howard City were regarded as correspondingly depressing. Unfortunately for Reynolds, however, a mortgage now began to be troublesome, and rendered a clear title to the village lots impossible. The collapse of the undertaking was as complete as it was sudden, and the success of Howard City was at once insured.

The second place of business opened in this village was the little grocery of W. D. Sabin, who came to Howard City and began to erect a small building soon after William Edmondson opened his hotel. Mr. Sabin subsequently added dry-goods and later built a large store building and opened a stock of hardware. The sales for 1879 aggregated from eighteen to twenty thousand dollars. One of the first business places opened in Howard City also was the hardware store of John F. Clubb, which stood across the road from the hotel built by Edmondson. He remained in trade but a short time. The first saw-mill was built by David Botsford; it was later owned by Henry Hinkle, of Pierson township.

In 1873 Howard City, having attained the requisite number of inhabitants, was incorporated. The first election under the charter was held on the 7th of April, 1873, at which time one hundred and nineteen votes were cast, of which, for the office of president of the village, Albert P. Thomas

received one hundred and eighteen. The following persons were elected trustees: John F. Chubb, Donly L. Coon, John L. Shattuck, Duncan C. McKimmon; clerk, George H. Segar; assessor, R. Mathews; treasurer, David Botsford; marshal, Joseph F. Jones.

The following article was taken from the 1901 Christmas number of the *Howard City Record*, and is the best history that could be written:

IN THE OLDEN DAYS.

The coming of a railroad to a town always marks one of the most momentous epochs in its history. Previous to the close of the Civil War thousands of prosperous villages existed and had their being, were pleasant and comfortable places of abode and busy marts of trade, yet whose only connections with the outside world were obtained by the old-fashioned stage-coach lines and trucking teams, back and forth from the more populous and more fortunate towns, located upon those great arteries of trade—the railroads.

Following the close of the war came theretofore unrivalled prosperity and commercial activity in the North, and one of the most marked advancements of the decade was its building of railroads.

Howard City was not then in existence. In 1868 the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad had reached a point as far north as Cedar Springs, and the country north of it was to a great extent an unbroken wilderness. Big Rapids, Traverse City and Ludington were "on the map," and Muskegon was a thriving saw-mill town. Paris and Hersey, both being located on rivers, had a store or two and were looked upon as trading posts, and Croton and Newaygo to the west were more or less prominent. A stage line was in operation between Big Rapids and Grand Rapids, the nearest stopping place to what afterward became Howard City being Ben Ensley's tavern, six miles southwest of here, on the old state road. That was a noted place in those days and Mr. Ensley was "it." He had a store and saloon, as well as a tavern and all teams coming and going over the stage line made it a point to stop with him and obtain rest and refreshments for both man and beast.

Lumbering operations had been in progress two or three years here, at that time and old-timers will recall such men as the Orton Brothers; Atwood, of Greenville; Pat Gorman, of Grand Rapids, and C. F. Nason as among the earliest comers. Later on, with the advent of the railroad, came Henry Henkel, Dave Botsford, Charley Miller, Seth Beals, Morgan & Stanton and

others. Shingle-mills also began to dot the surrounding country after the road was put through, and the Handy Brothers, Sam Dent, Chubb & Powell, Joel Smith & Sons, and others found it a place in which to do a flourishing business, and the festive shingle weaver with his bell-bottomed trouser legs, broad binding on his coat and vest and jaunty turban hat was the beau-ideal of fashion. There were then only two settlers between Cedar Springs and Ben Ensley's and from thence north the road twisted about through the pine forests and not another settler was found until within five or six miles of Big Rapids. The old Rathbun House was the leading hotel in Grand Rapids, while the old Barnard House, and the Bronson House, owned by Mr. Courtwright, father of William Courtwright, of Newaygo, vied with one another for second place.

In the spring of 1869 the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad reached the lumber camp which afterward became Howard City, and was built on north as far as Morley, which for a time continued to be the northern terminal. Like all towns which have been the scenes of lumbering operations, Howard City was wild and rough in its earlier years and the lumber jacks with their spike boots and mackinaw suits made Rome howl when they came in from the camps for a time.

The Tamarac river, which flows through the town, furnished the means for conveying the timber from here to the mills at Muskegon and the heavy growth of large pine for which this section of the state became famous produced many fortunes, which were mostly taken elsewhere to be spent.

Among the earlier settlers were Lewis W. Wilbur, Joseph Mosher, Thomas, Royal and William Quick, William H. Lovely, J. W. Lovely, Charles Larry, Rix, Len and Frank Church, Horace Menkee, Major A. B. Howe and his brothers, Dan and Charles Y.; Henry Maylette, A. R. and N. W. Mather, Doctor Lord, J. H. Kipp, J. H. Edmondson, who built the original hotel, which is now Coburn's Exchange; Captain Coon, who later greatly enlarged the same building; H. G. Coburn, who has owned it many years since; Frank and Peter Stevens, James Tyler, A. P. Thomas, J. L. Shattuck, George and Austin Barber, David Swarthout, William Boynton, T. C. Fouts, Doctor Snow, J. P. Denton, John Delaney, T. C. Borden, Doctor Snyder, S. M. Hewings, T. C. Prout, E. H. Simons, Alf Macomber, Al Spalsbury, William S. Dove, William F. Thompson, Steve Winslow, Arthur Price, Isaiah Allen, Port Dayman, W. D. Sabin, Orlin Potter, Sidney Granger, Eli Overpac, A. Booth, Chester A. Rockwell, Charles Broast, John C. Collins, William Robbie, Solomon Lisk, O. J. Wolfe, C. C. Aterbury, Richard H. and Albert O'Donald, Henry Henkel, Ed Lovely, O. J. Knapp,

"Billy" Wilson, E. V. Wilson, Richard Perry, Alex Denton, George M. Doty, J. H. Haskins, John Fields, C. B. Rice, John, Alex, Jim and Fred Watts, Jim Sargent, Alex Duncan, Seth Beals, Si Morgan, Samuel Dent, Jack McMillen, D. A. Murray, Dan Shook, J. W. and Sid V. Bullock, Henry Rogers, Peter DeWitt, Olcott Lowell, Johnny Montste, Dan Miller, George Cox, ——— Henderson, George Underhill, Captain Robinson, Bob Robinson, A. C. White, Joseph Southard, and others whose names are not at present recalled.

For fifteen years of its existence, Howard City was a wooden town. It was distinctively a lumber town. The pine grew thick and heavy here, mills sprang up all about and lumber was comparatively cheap. The principal thought was how to make money as quickly and in as large quantities as possible and then go elsewhere to enjoy the fruits of it. Little thought was devoted in the earlier years to building for the future, to securing shady streets and beautiful homes, or to protecting property from fire. For fifteen years, with the exception of a brief period when a wheezy second-hand hand-engine, always out of repair, was owned by the village, the only protection against fire was a "bucket brigade," of which every man, woman and child in the place was a member.

And surely if any town was ever thoroughly ravaged by fire Howard City was. Aside from the usual or perhaps we should say unusual fires, occurring from year to year, there have been general conflagrations which in a day or a night have practically wiped out the business section of the town.

Previous to 1880 the business portion of the village was principally located on Ensley street, parallel with the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad, north and south of Edgerton street. On the night of December 31, 1883, fire broke out in the building occupied for a store and residence by O. J. Knapp at about nine o'clock in the evening. It was bitterly cold and a sharp wind was blowing, making it very uncomfortable for those engaged in contesting the progress of the flames. The only water obtainable for the use of the bucket brigade was from two or three wells in the vicinity, at which willing hands worked the pumps incessantly. The fire gained steadily and it looked as though the whole town was doomed.

The Grand Rapids fire department was notified by telegraph and immediate aid was asked for. Prompt action was taken there and a steam fire engine was sent here by special train, accompanied by a force of trained firemen. There were two or three old fire cisterns which had been built when the local hand engine had been purchased, but these had fallen into disuse and what little water was in them was exhausted in a very few moments

by the steamer. A line of hose was then laid to the river. The fire did not get north of Edgerton street—on Ensley street, Coburn's Exchange and all north of it being spared—but south from the Exchange every building on the street was wiped out completely. These comprised the following:

A two-story building on the corner owned by W. H. Lovely, followed on the south by a two-story building used for jewelry store and living rooms by a man named Pratt. Next was the grocery and restaurant of J. R. Abbott, and beyond this the furniture store of Austin Barber. Then came the old hotel which was run at the time by a man named Mabil, and beyond that a saloon operated by Dan Hartnett, formerly of Trufant. On the further corner was the old Howard House, operated by Ed. Filleo, now of Luther. Not a vestige of this entire block was left standing. East on Edgerton street, on both sides, raged the fire, eating up one building after another. These comprised a small building where Herold's brick block now stands, which was occupied with a restaurant by Mrs. R. G. Quick and son; next, on the east, was a two-story frame building used as a grocery by Sam Sweet, the upper rooms being occupied by Sam Mankin and family. Next was a two-story frame building owned by O. J. Knapp and the second floor occupied by himself and family. On the ground floor Mr. Knapp conducted a grocery store. It was in this building where the fire originated from a defective chimney. A. P. Thomas had a fine law office on the first floor in the next building, with Captain Robinson's justice court upstairs. Peter Stevens and his brother, Frank, owned the two-story frame next east and lived overhead. Their shoe shop was on the ground floor. On the corner, where H. M. Gibbs' store now stands, was a drug store owned by Dr. John R. Hathaway and Sid V. Bullock.

The fire went no farther east than this corner, on White street, but on the south side of Edgerton street, opposite the block just mentioned was a whole row of frame buildings that were destroyed. On the Edgerton and White street corner was a two-story frame building owned and occupied by Broas & Collins, as a general store. "Maje" Key had a tailoring establishment upstairs. M. H. Jenner had a building next west, where he had a jewelry store; next west was the old Union block. The lower rooms were used, the east by Mrs. C. E. Murray's millinery store, and the west by "Billy" Wilson's market. Murrays lived over their store, and the Masonic lodge was on the third floor. Next was the fine grocery store of Frank O. Lord, with offices upstairs. Adjoining and on the corner by the alley, where Nagler's drug store now stands, was a frame building which had been moved there from another location by Thomas Quick and occupied by his

son, J. B. Quick (now of Seattle), with a stock of drugs. There was a doctor's office overhead. Next west of the alley was a building owned and occupied by Mitch Hewings with a grocery. Adjoining it was a big L-shaped building, owned by Dan Miller, running back about seventy-five feet and turning east, facing the alley, in the rear of the corner building. Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Townsend occupied this for a restaurant and bakery. The next two lots were vacant, and on the corner, across from Coburn's Exchange, was a two-story frame building, which was at that time occupied by a saloon, owned by W. H. Lovely. South from Broas & Collins' store were three buildings owned by Solomon Lisk. All were destroyed.

Howard City was no laggard in those days. Its citizens were men of action, and before the embers of the great fire had cooled preparations were on foot looking to a rebuilding of the burned district in a more substantial manner than before.

The village council met and promptly enacted a fire ordinance, establishing fire limits within which the erection of no wooden building would be permitted, and had this been rigidly enforced the town would be the better for it today. In the main it was observed, and a majority of the new blocks built thereafter were fine looking, substantial, two-story brick structures, which stand today a credit to the enterprise and pluck of their owners. In a number of instances, however, petitions were made by those who had lost all in the fire, for permission to put up frame buildings for temporary use, to later be replaced by brick stores. After more or less contention these requests were granted and although seventeen years have since elapsed the little frame buildings, more or less surreptitiously added to and improved since, still stand and are likely to for years to come. They furnish a place to do business, it is true, and to have denied them the privilege of construction would have been rather severe upon the builders, but had all been treated alike and the ordinance adhered to, Howard City would have today one of the handsomest business streets of any town in Michigan of like population.

John B. Quick, Frank O. Lord, John C. Collins, R. H. O'Donald, Peter Stevens, A. P. Thomas, O. J. Knapp and Richard Perry erected fine two-story brick blocks the year following the fire, and the next year Henry Henkel also put a fine block of the same character on the west lot, adjoining the alley. H. G. Coburn also built the big skating rink which was afterward converted into a livery barn.

Another destructive fire was that which occurred on Sunday, May 19, 1889, starting in a back room of a grocery store owned and occupied by

Casper Schutt, next east of where Engleman's store now is, on the south side of Edgerton street, east from White street. There were four store buildings in this block and a brick church owned by the Free-Will Baptists, on the next corner east, where the Congregational church now stands. There was also a solid block of frame buildings on the opposite side of the street, from White to Lincoln streets, including the big opera house block, and these were all destroyed, as were also the residences of A. C. White and S. V. Bullock, where now stands the homes of A. O'Donald and H. M. Gibbs; also the residence of John D. Morton, where H. Steenman's house is; the residence of A. Booth, on the lot now occupied by that of John Collins, Sr., and the residence of J. W. Bullock and a vacant building owned by James Milne, on White street. Other buildings caught fire several times but were saved. Those destroyed in the south side business block were J. W. Lovely's hardware store, on the corner, N. W. Mather's bank, with Dr. J. Olds' dental office and living rooms overhead, the S. C. Fell building, occupied by the Robbie Sisters' millinery store and the American Express office and Bell telephone exchange on the ground floor and for living rooms on the second floor by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Weidman. Next east of this was the store of Casper Schutt, where the fire started. He lived over the store, but with his family was visiting in the country when the fire occurred.

Next east of this was a warehouse owned by J. W. Lovely, and next following the intervening vacant lots, was the Free-Will Baptist church, with a small frame house in the rear. On the north side of the street, on the corner, where now stands the two-story brick store of C. A. VanDenberg, with the office of the *Howard City Record* on the second floor, was the store building owned by Mrs. Carrie King, and occupied by D. N. Cornell's meat market. Dr. S. E. Morgan lived upstairs. Alex Denton's grocery was in the next store east, where the old postoffice and Col. J. Burtch's drug store had formerly been. Next came Gaylord & Pipp's hardware and shoe store in the west room and Mrs. M. L. Gaylord's dry-goods store in the east one, Dr. James Totten's office, D. C. Mosher's law office, the Grand Army of the Republic post hall and the opera house on second floor.

John C. Coats had a blacksmith shop next on the east, followed by J. R. Abbott's news depot and residence. Then came C. W. Perry's law office and Adams Express office, conducted by Merton J. Hills, who was also city clerk. Next was August Fuhrman's shoe shop and residence and on the corner was a two-story building with residences in the rear, owned by A. H. Ayers. The store was occupied by Dr. H. P. Fuller and the second floor

contained the living rooms of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Lavene. Fred Booth lived in the residence in rear of store.

Following this fire the people began to arouse to the importance of getting fire protection. The *Record*, which came under the control of B. J. Lowrey, in the autumn of 1885, had long advocated this, and shown the practicability of a municipal ownership of waterworks in villages, and the village council decided to submit to the people a proposition to build a waterworks system. Horace M. Menkee was village president at that time and C. C. Messenger, B. J. Lowrey, J. A. Collins, Fred Ashley, G. M. Doty and Henry Kinnee, the board of trustees.

A special election was called, to be held on November 27, and a proposition was submitted to the people to bond the village for \$8,000 to be expended for the purchase and laying of a system of waterworks. The usual contention followed, vigorous opposition being put up by those who thought it would enormously increase taxation. The question was submitted, however, and carried overwhelmingly. The vote was a very light one, only 195 ballots being cast. Of these 137 voted in favor and only 58 against. C. C. Messenger, B. J. Lowrey and J. A. Collins were appointed by the council as a committee to visit a number of places having waterworks to learn what kind of a plant would be most desirable to purchase. The committee visited Alma, St. Louis, Clare, Farwell and Reed City, and after careful investigation reported in favor of iron pipes for water mains, a direct pressure system and two large pumps each with a capacity, when operating alone, equal to any ordinary demand that might be made upon the system. Later, bids were advertised for, and a contract let to M. Walker for \$12,000 for furnishing and putting in a waterworks system, equipped with two of his high pressure pumps, each with a pumping capacity of 750,000 gallons every twenty-four hours, and so arranged that either one can be worked independently of the other, or both at once, with a combined capacity of 1,500,000 gallons in twenty-four hours.

In the original plant there were two miles of water mains, principally ten, six and four-inch and a small quantity of two-inch on short circuits on side streets. Another mile was laid later. The building was erected, the pumps, boilers and equipment put in, the mains all laid, hose cart and hose and hook and ladder outfit purchased and the works were tested and accepted the following spring.

Later it was voted to bond the village for an additional \$3,000 for completing the plant, and two extensions of the mains have since been made,

so that nearly every portion of the village has fire protection. Payment of the bonds has been in progress for several years, so that the entire bonded debt of the village today is only \$5,500. The waterworks are now self-sustaining, and have several times saved the town from threatened annihilation. The Grand Rapids & Indiana and Pere Marquette railroads take the water supply for their engines and depot property from the village and pay therefor an annual rental.

THE TOWN OF TODAY.

Howard City has today a population of 1,100 people. The town is no longer a lumber town. The lumber cut was finished years ago and its last saw-mill is long since gone. Tamarack river, which has swept many millions of dollars worth of logs toward the mills, has forgotten the turbulence caused in its water in those days and is today stocked with beautiful speckled brook trout, where the anglers make splendid catches of that best of all game fish every spring.

The business blocks are mostly substantial two-story brick structures with commodious basements and beautiful plate-glass fronts and some of the best and largest stocks of goods found north of Grand Rapids are found therein. The streets are broad and well shaded and the town contains many beautiful and substantial modern homes with tasty and well-kept lawns. The town is lighted with electricity in both business and residence districts. There is a private system of sewerage in the business section and in portions of the residence sections of the town. Howard City is one of the leading potato markets in this part of the state, and this county, Montcalm, is third in Michigan in the magnitude of this great Michigan product. The crop of 1901 in this county is in excess of one million bushels.

The waterworks system comprises an equipment of a size usually found only in towns 8,000 to 10,000 population. Five streams 100 feet high can be thrown continuously at the same time.

In the way of railroad facilities, the Grand Rapids & Indiana, (the fishing line) running direct to Mackinaw, Petoskey and the other northern resorts, passes through the town and is intersected here by two lines of the Pere Marquette system—one from Howard City to Detroit, the other from Howard City to Saginaw. The Pere Marquette also has a line surveyed from Howard City west to strike Lake Michigan at Ludington to the north and Muskegon to the south. Right-of-way on this extension was purchased and the indications are that the road will be built.

As a trading point Howard City has few equals and no superiors in this part of the state. There is a cash market for everything produced within the trading radius, prices rule high and on the other hand goods in the stores are sold on close margins and trade is correspondingly large.

THE BESEMET HOME.

One of the remarkable institutions of Howard City is the "Besemet Home," which has come into existence in response to the actual needs of the community. Parents came to Mr. and Mrs. Besemet and implored them to take their children, and thus the home grew to its present proportions. Parents who had children in the home spread the good news among others. During the past five years eighty children have been cared for. The Besemet Home has a state license, but the institution is not incorporated. It frequently happens that a home is broken up by the death of one of the parents or by desertion of the father or mother. In such cases Mr. and Mrs. Besemet take the children and accept whatever is proffered by way of aid to support. When conditions have changed and the home can be re-established, the children are returned to their parents or parent. While children remain at the home they are properly clothed, provided with good, wholesome food and sent to the public school and to Sabbath school. No solicitations for assistance have ever been made.

CONGER.

Conger, which lies in section 12, of Reynolds township, on the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad, was platted on March 5, 1872. This was platted for John Conger, proprietor, (hence the name) by A. E. Upton, surveyor. At the time of the laying out of this town it was the location of a saw-mill, but owing to the nearness to Howard City, which is only three and one-half miles away, and, with the exhaustion of the timber, it ceased to exist as a commercial point, and at present exists only in name.

CHAPTER XX.

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP.

The petition asking for the detachment of township 12 north, range 5 west, from Ferris township, and organizing it into a separate township, was dated on November 3, 1869, at Ferris. This bore the following names: Jacob C. Schoonover, George Hanes, John E. Evans, Joshua Painter, Rufus Sanders, Levi Johnson, Homer Hart, George Campbell, Elias Corder, Benjamin Brace, Samuel Zink, John M. Daniels, E. D. Throop, S. S. Woodard, Egbert L. Heath, Isaac Swain, Edmond Hare, John Shaffer, James Finch, Samuel Shaffer, Gilbert L. Chatfield, C. M. Woodard, Christopher Hare, Samuel Corder, Archibald Washburn, Daniel F. Hare, Abimanz Boston, Andrew Zuver, Joseph Laughlin and N. B. Scott. The name chosen was Richland, and the first election was held at the house of Joshua Painter, with Jacob B. Schoonover, John E. Evans and Samuel Zink acting as election judges. At this first election the following persons were elected: Supervisor, Jacob Schoonover; clerk, John E. Evans; treasurer, Samuel Zink; justices of the peace, Samuel Zink and Joshua Painter.

Richland is the northeast township of Montcalm county. It is bounded on the north by Isabella county, east by Gratiot county, south by the township of Ferris, of which, until 1868, it formed a part, and on the west by the township of Home. It is known as town 12 north, range 5 west.

The Pine river, the source of which is in the northeast quarter of section 17, where two small streams, known, respectively, as the north and south branch, unite to form it, flows eastward across sections 16, 15, 14 and 13. The only bodies of water of any considerable size are Deaner lake, named after the first settler in the township, and situated on the north part of section 35 and the south part of section 26; Bass Rock lake and Pickerel lake, both partially situated on section 20. The township presents every variety of soil, as is indicated by the great variety of timber. In the southwestern part it is light and sandy, and the timber is almost exclusively pine. This part of the township has been the scene of several severe forest fires, by which much valuable timber was destroyed. Nearer the river the soil becomes a black sandy loam of wonderful productiveness. North of the

river beech and maple are the leading varieties, and the soil, though in places light, is generally excellent. The lumbering interest was the principal source of employment when the township was first organized, and the demand for farm produce has consequently furnished a good market for home production.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES.

Section 1—Samuel Mott Leggett, Joshua Dunn, James B. Roberts, Morris Dunn, Amasa Rust, James C. Davenport, Warren A. Sherwood. Section 2—Samuel M. Leggett, Ezra Rust, James Hay, Ammi W. Wright, James Hay, Warren A. Sherwood, Ezra Rust, James Hay, Valorous A. Payne, Dellway Jones, Solomon Lapaugh. Section 3—Valorous A. Payne, Joshua Dunn, Daniel Strayer, Ezra Rust, James Hay, Solomon Lapaugh, Hampton Rich. Section 4—Ambrose L. Soule, Valorous A. Payne, James H. Hill, Joshua Dunn, Charles Merrill. Section 5—David Rust, Ambrose L. Soule, Sansford F. Wilder, Ambrose L. Soule, Frederick Dunn, Morris Dunn, Israel E. Richardsen, Joshua Dunn, Charles Merrill. Section 6—William H. Walker, Joshua Dunn, George W. Young, Alexander F. Bell, Charles Merrill. Section 7—Ambrose Soule, Joshua Dunn, Alexander F. Bell, John Groufant, John W. Dunn, William C. McKenzie, Chester Walker. Section 8—Frederick Dunn, Israel E. Richardsen, Joshua Dunn. Section 9—William A. Alvord, Joshua Dunn, Israel E. Richardsen, John W. Dunn, Charles Merrill. Section 10—Elijah B. Benton, Eleazer Blackman, Valorous A. Payne, Solomon Lapaugh, Hampton Rich, S. A. Fuller, Nelson M. Schoonover. Section 11—James Hicks, ——— Robbenmolt, George W. Deming, Valorous A. Payne, Ammi W. Wright. Section 12—David W. Rust, Charles Merrill, Lucy Pritchard, Wesley Castle. Section 13—A. Rust, David W. Rust, Charles Bradley, Lansford F. Wilder, Josiah Rogers, George W. Myers, George W. Wright. Section 14—Money Rust, David W. Rust, James Nichols, Elijah Gray, Levi R. Watkins, David Dutt. Section 15—Money Rust, Amasa Rust, Elijah B. Benton, Eleazer Blackman, William A. Alvord, Josiah Painter. Section 16—Valorous A. Payne, Ammi W. Wright, Hamilton Pritchard, Isaiah Swain, Jabez Hawkins, Jacob W. Stinchfield, Charles H. Davis, John W. Doane, Minerva Pritchard, Eugene Chappel. Section 17—Charles Merrill, Loren K. Hewitt, Lorenze B. Curtis, Jabez Hawkins. Section 18—Ambrose S. Soule, Joshua Dunn. Section 19—Charles Merrill, Warren A. Sherwood, Samuel M. Leggett, Joshua Dunn, Frederick Dunn, David Paddock, Daniel R. Sullivan. Section 20—W. H. Lillie, George W. Bennett, David Paddock, James Nichols, Charles

Merrill, Frederick Dunn, David R. Sullivan. Section 21—Charles Merrill, Ambrose Soules, Lyman Hoover, Valorus A. Payne, Joshua Dunn, Fred Dunn, Andrew N. Lyon, Henry L. Holevink, Phineas Borten. Section 22—David W. Rust, William A. Alvord, Joshua Dunn, Robert Wood, Auntwine Mier, Ammi W. Wright, William A. Alvord, Henry L. Holcomb, E. A. Ripley. Section 23—Money Rust, David W. Rust, Eleazer Blackman, William A. Alvord, Valorus A. Payne, Joshua Dunn, Christopher Cleverton, Charles Merrill. Section 24—Money Rust, David W. Rust, John A. Robbins, William W. Murphy, James Nichols, Josiah Newman, W. A. Alvord, Valorus A. Payne, Charles Merrill. Section 25—Money Rust, Elizabeth McNabb, John A. Robbins, Almon Townsend, Ransom Phelps. Section 26—Samuel M. Leggett, Elizabeth McNabb, Charles Deaner, Joshua Dunn. Section 27—Samuel M. Leggett, Joshua Dunn, Auntwine Mier, John W. Dunn, Henry L. Holcomb. Section 28—Ambrose L. Soule, Valorus A. Payne, Joshua Dunn, Morris Dunn, Samuel Zink, Geritt S. Ward. Section 29—Samuel M. Leggett, Valorus A. Payne, Ralph Ely. Section 30—Samuel M. Leggett, John M. Daniel, Armand Rhodes, John M. Daniels, Philander Howe, George B. Isham, Joshua Dunn, Joshua Fair, Amasa Sheldon. Section 31—Hevey R. Woodworth, E. K. Wood. Section 32—Samuel Daniels, Peter Strink, Erastus Edgett, E. K. Wood, Ralph Ely, John W. Doane, Emma A. Ripley, F. H. Patter, M. Quince, William A. Murray. Section 33—George Hanes, Rupell Waterman, Benjamin D. Brace, Samuel Zink, Elias Cordu. Section 34—Samuel M. Leggett, Eli Benton, Stephen D. Francis, Jacob Schoonover. Section 35—Ezra Rust, James Hay, Ambrose L. Soule, Chester Baxter, Eli Benton, Ezra Rust, Charles Merrill. Section 36—Money Rust, Ambrose L. Soule, Chester Baxter, Almond Townsend, Frederick Dunn, Joshua Dunn, Henry M. Martin, Nelson Green.

EXPERIENCE OF CHARLES DEANER.

Charles Deaner was the first settler in the township of Richland. He was born and reared in Wurtemberg, Germany, whence he came to New York City in 1849. There he remained several years, and having acquired a slight knowledge of the English language, ventured to remove to Erie county, New York. After a number of years he moved to Ionia county, Michigan, and by frugality saved sufficient means to procure a yoke of oxen, a year's provisions, and eighty acres of land at seventy-five cents per acre, which he entered in the summer of 1860, and which was situated on the south part of section 26, in Richland township. In order to establish his

claim it was necessary that he build a cabin and pass one night in it. Being entirely unacquainted with the use of the axe, this cabin was an exceedingly primitive structure, comprised, as it was, of poles laid up something in the form of a corn crib, with a small opening for a door, and covered with brush. After remaining in this cabin the required time he returned to Ionia, where he remained until the next May, when he employed two teams to fetch his family and goods to the new home. Upon reaching Bell Town the drivers unloaded his goods and on account of the bad roads, would go no farther. Mr. Deaner then employed others to complete the journey.

Upon reaching the house of David Strayer, in Gratiot county, this being the end of the road, Mr. Deaner was compelled to underbrush a road from this place to the land which he had entered. Mrs. Deaner walked the entire distance, carrying the youngest child, then but six months old, and leading a little boy of five years. Nearly exhausted they reached their destination, the land of promise in a wilderness of woods, three miles from their nearest neighbor. But their troubles were not yet ended. The teams, which were soon unloaded, set out immediately to return. They were scarcely out of hearing when the cabin, in which everything of use had been stored, took fire and was destroyed. With much difficulty a barrel of pork and some other articles were saved from the flames. As it was, their bedding, wearing apparel, dishes and household utensils were destroyed, which was a most serious loss to them with their limited means. The accident occurred from a fire which had been kindled by Henry Meller, the father of Mrs. Deaner, who, wishing to light his pipe, had indiscreetly applied a match to a brush heap near the house. From this the fire spread rapidly, and threatened at once to envelop the neighboring timber, but after the destruction of the cabin it was checked.

The first night passed by a white family in Richland, therefore, was one of extreme hardship. The air was cold, and the rain at intervals poured down in torrents. With no covering or shelter the situation may better be imagined than described. The inability of Mr. Deaner to use the axe has already been referred to, but by the assistance of Joshua Strayer, who helped him at first in getting a description of his land, and who ever after proved a sincere friend, he stretched some sheets over poles, thus making a passable hut in dry weather, but a very poor protection from wind and rain. In about three weeks he succeeded, without a helping hand, in raising a cabin and covering it with shakes. It served without a floor during the summer.

The first season Mr. Deaner planted some potatoes and garden vegetables, but being planted late they barely returned the seed.

The next spring he set out the first fruit trees in the township and planted corn and potatoes, which yielded abundantly. Having as yet no plow, and the ground being full of roots and brush, he chopped with an old axe little square holes in the ground and thus planted each hill of corn and potatoes. The next winter several parties of men having camped in the vicinity and engaged in getting out logs for the Saginaw market, he found a ready sale for all he could spare. Thus, while many others have made their homes within the limits of Richland, and have soon become discouraged and removed, thus losing time and the benefit of several years of labor and privation, Mr. Deaner closely adhered to his original purpose and became entirely successful. Some years after his arrival a great many settlers came to the township, but comparatively few remained long enough to make any permanent improvements. A man named Waterman pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres and built a cabin, but soon sold his claim to Elias Corder, who also soon after sold and removed from the township. George Haynes settled on the southeast quarter of section 23, and remained long enough to girdle the splendid pine trees on about twenty acres and sowed it to wheat among the standing trees. He remained but four years.

The next two settlers, Joshua Painter and John E. Evans, were more permanent, and remained in the township. Painter entered forty acres on the southeast quarter of section 15; Evans took the adjoining forty acres on section 16. They also, together, purchased a number of other tracts. Mr. Evans was extensively engaged in lumbering, having put in the Saginaw market, in the aggregate, twenty millions of feet. He joined the army from Ohio, being in the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, more than two years. Mr. Painter engaged in business in Vestaburg. Another settler, Levi Watkins, settled in the east part of the township in 1866. Samuel Zink came in shortly afterward and later moved to Vestaburg.

VESTABURG.

The village of Vestaburg was named after the wife of its founder, G. W. O'Donnell. It is situated on the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 23, on land formerly owned by Morris Dun, a lumber merchant of Seville, Gratiot county. In August, 1874, Mr. O'Donnell purchased this quarter, and came with his family to the township and started a

lumber camp, rafting the logs to Saginaw by means of the Pine river, which is about two miles north of the village.

After establishing a camp and putting up buildings for his men, he applied and was commissioned postmaster under Marshall Jewell, on September 14, 1875. This was the first postoffice in the township. In the winter of 1876-77 Mr. O'Donnell employed Eliza Andrews to teach a school, which was the second one taught south of the river and the first in the village. The railroad was completed in the fall of 1875, and the 29th of October, Mr. O'Donnell platted and laid out the village of Vestaburg. The first business house established was a shingle-mill by Starkweather & Alger, to whom Mr. O'Donnell gave a block for a location for their mill. It was burned after coming into the possession of George W. Palmer.

William Starkweather soon after opened a small stock of dry-goods and groceries in the building later occupied as a store by James W. Robinson. The postoffice was removed from the lumber camp to this place. George W. O'Donnell, the founder of Vestaburg, was born in Rutland county, Vermont, whence he came to Saginaw in 1854, and engaged in lumbering. Later he engaged in the real estate business in Vestaburg.

After the passing of the lumber industry Vestaburg settled down to a quiet existence, but being situated, as it is, in the center of a good farming district, it has maintained its early improvements and in the last years has taken on quite a growth. Each year there are dwellings erected and it has become a trading center for this part of the township. It has a population of approximately three hundred. The business interests of the town consist of four grocery stores, which are owned by the following persons: Clarence Caris, John Thurlby, Howard & Bernius and Hiller's grocery. The Wallace, Orr & Company's Bank has a good patronage in this part, as also the only elevator in the town, which is owned by the same firm. Ed Harding keeps a general line of hardware, and Hornbeck Brothers keep an agricultural store. Dr. M. C. Hubbard is the only physician in the township, and also owns a drug store.

There are two meat markets, owned by Nickerson & Son and a Mr. Gould. Earl Walker has a confectionery store and also runs a hotel. Dayton Gorsuck operates a creamery station and poultry house. Mrs. Dewitt Murtage keeps a general line of millinery. B. B. Thorpe keeps a jewelry store. Fred Cornell a feed and livery barn. There are two blacksmith shops, owned by David Marlin and Mr. Worden. There is also a pickle salting station located here, which is owned by Albert McGuire & Company.

Vestaburg is an excellent potato market, which business is carried on by Frank Cummings and Eugene Lane. George Peasley is railroad agent and Charles Nickerson is present postmaster. A Mr. McDowell keeps the only barber shop. The first elevator built in Vestaburg, and in fact this part of the township, was erected and owned by Dr. A. D. Ballou in 1906. There are two churches, Dunkard and Christian, located in Vestaburg. The Pere Marquette railroad passes through Vestaburg and has proved quite a stimulant to the interests of the town.

CHAPTER XXI.

SIDNEY TOWNSHIP.

The township of Sidney is situated geographically in the central part of the county. It is bounded on the north by Douglass, on the east by Evergreen, on the south by Fairplain and on the west by Montcalm. The petition for the erection of a new township was dated on November 11, 1856, and comprised the territory of town 10 north, range 7 west, and bore the following names: Abner Hall, Lyman Johnson, Samuel Gillmore, William Lampman, Nathaniel Ferris, J. V. Noah, Charles Kellogg, H. Gillmore, John Byan, George F. Noah, William H. Noah, Orrin Phelps, S. Butterworth, C. H. Miel, James Light, S. Wheeler, J. Meginley, C. E. Shepard, J. Bradish, H. Amsbury, A. Frederick, J. W. Drake, A. B. Amsbury, George Fleck, Phineas Swift and N. Towsley. This petition asked that town 10 north, range 7 west, be set off from the township of Fairplain and organized into a separate township. The petitioners asked that the name of Nelson or Bath be given to the newly-erected township. This petition was presented to the board of supervisors at their regular meeting in January, 1857.

The board of supervisors acted upon the above petition and granted the prayer of the petitioners on January 5, 1857, in respect to the official organization of said territory into a new township, but in the selection of a name for the newly-created township it seems that the supervisors had their own idea on this matter and chose the name of Sidney. Just why they should reject the names suggested by the petitioners and choose this name is not known. The first election was ordered to be held at the house of Joshua V. Noah on the 6th of April, 1857. At this meeting Joshua V. Noah, William Lampman and Orin Phelps were appointed to act as election judges at this meeting.

Originally, as with all the townships in this part of the county, Sidney was densely timbered, pine, beech and maple being the principal varieties, and until 1855 its forests were comparatively free from underbrush. But in the latter year a terrific tornado swept through portions of the township, destroying the heavier timber on thousands of acres and causing damages to the extent of thousands of dollars. Verifying the proverb that "trou-

ble never comes single handed," the following year a very destructive fire swept that part of the country laid waste by the storm and this raged for several months, destroying much valuable timber that had been left standing. As a result of the devastations, a second growth of timber soon made its appearance everywhere, which later became almost impenetrable and owing to the great amount of work necessary to put this land under cultivation, it impeded the settlements greatly.

Although the marks of this tornado and fire were visible for many years after, there were many large tracts of pine which were left uninjured, and in consequence Sidney ranked very high for many years in the pine-lumber industry and this was her principal resource. With the destruction and removal of the pine forests the inhabitants gradually shifted from the pursuit of lumbering to those of agriculture, and rapid developments in this new line were soon made. The soil was naturally good, and with the advanced methods of farming and also the care taken in the building up of the land it has become well adapted to agricultural pursuits and ranks well among the other farming townships of the county.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

In the early day the fine timber of Sidney attracted the attention of shingle makers, and a number of their cabins were erected before there was any permanent settlement in the township. The persons thus engaged were generally men who paid no attention whatever to property lines, regarding as public property any timber lands which were not closely guarded, and did not scruple to pitch their tents or build their shanties where ever they considered themselves safe from interruption or discovery.

In the summer of 1854 the first regular settler, Phineas Swift, came into the township and built a cabin on the northwest part of the southwest quarter of section 27. He was a native of New York, but of him little else is known, as he removed from the township before many others came in. His son, Eugene, was the first white child born in Sidney. Swift built a shanty, in which he made shingles, and also made a small clearing and set out some fruit trees before removing from the township, which he did after a stay of seven years.

In the fall of 1854 Henry Gillmore, a native of New York, came to Sidney. His father, Joseph Gillmore, with his wife and four children, removed to Nelson, Portage county, Ohio, in 1818, where he lived until his death. He was among the pioneers in that county. Henry Gillmore was

married to Lucy Merwin, daughter of Doctor Merwin, and remained in Ohio until he came to Sidney, in 1854, as before stated. He settled on the north half of the northwest quarter of section 28, and entered also eighty acres on the southwest quarter of section 21. He built the first permanent dwelling in the township, and during the winter and early spring, assisted by his sons, George W. and Noble H., the former being then seventeen years of age, built a large shingle shop for the purpose of making shaved shingles. They also cleared about three acres of land, which in the spring he planted to corn, potatoes and vegetables, together with a small piece of flax, the seed for which he had brought from Ohio. During the summer he cleared seven acres, which he sowed to wheat in the fall. To Henry Gillmore, therefore, must be attributed the honor of planting the first garden and sowing the first grain in the township of Sidney. The following spring he set out the first orchard.

Theodore Gillmore, one of the contracting parties of the first marriage in the township, was a member of this family. He was married to Eunice Dow. Homer Miles, a justice of the peace in Fairplain, officiated. It is said that the justice, when asked what the fee would be, replied: "About a dollar." Dollars were exceedingly scarce in those days, and the bridegroom so informed the worthy squire. But the field was full of pumpkins, and the fee was paid with a wagon load, which Mr. Gillmore hauled to Fairplain. Theodore Gillmore was killed in the Civil War. In the fall of 1854 Orin Phelps and John Flake also came to the township. The former brought a wife and three children, and settled on section 9. John Flake settled near Derby lake, where he remained until his death. Calvin Mason was also an early settler, but did not remain long.

In the fall of 1855 J. B. Noah, with his son, Josiah, and a hired man named James Jewell, came in. They cleared and underbrushed a patch for crops the following spring. Mr. Noah brought his family to the township in the month of May, 1856. William Noah, who was married, came at the same time.

On the 14th of February, 1855, Lyman Johnson, with his wife and four children, came from Trumbull county, Ohio, and stopped at the house of Nelson Townsley in Fairplain, where he remained three months. He then came to Sidney Center, where he pre-empted eighty acres of land on section 19. Here Mr. Johnson built a good, comfortable log house, made a clearing and the following spring set out a number of fruit trees. He afterward purchased the place entered by Phineas Swift. The same winter, 1855-56, George Van Ness, William Fields and Edwin Lafferty came to Sidney. They

all settled on section 20, where Van Ness lived until his death. He brought a large family. One son, Nelson, was killed at home by the accidental discharge of a gun. Edward was almost instantly killed in the army, being shot through the neck. William Fields remained in Sidney until 1862, when he removed to Kansas. Edwin Lafferty returned to New York.

In February, 1856, Ira Barlow settled, with his wife and two children—a son and a daughter—on the northeast quarter of section 35. He secured this land in 1850 with a land warrant, having served in the Mexican War under General Scott. Mr. Barlow was born in Livingston county, New York, in which place his father was an early settler. They came to Wayne county, Michigan, and settled in Van Buren township in 1835. Here he was married to Ann McIntosh. At the first town meeting he was elected supervisor and held the office seven years. At the same time he came to Sidney, his brother-in-law, John Brown, entered forty acres on the southeast quarter of section 35. He remained in the township but a short time.

Dr. S. Derby, who came from Fairplain (in which township he was the first physician), settled on section 10, near the southeast shore of the lake which now bears his name. He built a cabin and remained a number of years. He was one of those characters sometimes met with on the frontier—a genius in his way. Besides being a good physician for those days, he was a gunsmith, could repair a watch and clock, and was, in fact, a jack-of-all-trades. He subsequently went north, where, it is said, after having moved for the fortieth time, he settled down, and kept a hotel.

Dr. John Bradish was also one of the first physicians in Sidney, and although his methods were peculiar and strongly given to superstition, he is considered on the whole, as having been successful in his profession. He moved west, where he died.

William Lampman and Abner Hall came to Sidney in 1855. The former settled on the southwest quarter of section 36. He served in the army during the Civil War, and after its close he continued to reside in Sidney until 1880, when he returned to New York, his native state. Abner Hall came from England in the fall of 1856. He also served in the army, and was wounded at the battle of Hatcher's Run. At one time he worked for James Cheffin, of Fairplain, for fifty cents per day, when potatoes were one dollar and fifty cents to two dollars per bushel. Among the pioneers of Sidney also were Sylvester Barrett, who settled in the western part of the township, and who, joining the army, was killed in battle; Calvin Mann, Alanson Snow and West Drake. Snow entered one hundred and sixty acres

on section 34, with a land warrant given for the military service of his son, who died in the Mexican War.

The first death in Sidney was that of Mrs. John Ryan, who, with her family, in the year 1855, settled on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 21. Here she was buried, but her remains were removed to the cemetery at the center in the spring of 1880.

Dr. Chauncey E. Shephard, who resided in Fairplain, was among the early physicians who practiced in this township. He usually made his rounds on foot, accompanied by a dog and carrying a gun. An instance is related in which he is said to have killed a large bear near the cabin of a settler in the south part of the township. Finding the family absent, and having no means of conveying it to his home, he dragged it to a wagon which stood near the rude barn. Into this he finally succeeded in placing it, where it lay as if ready to spring upon the first passer-by.

The next morning Archie Smith, then a lad of twelve years of age, with several playmates, were passing the time to the best possible advantage to themselves, when he, followed by a companion, ran up the wagon tongue into the box where Bruin had been placed the evening before. As if paralyzed with the sight he walked straight out of the wagon, without any regard whatever as to where he placed his feet. When Doctor Shephard returned with a team to take his prize home, he found a patient who required his closest attention for several days. Doctor Shephard also subsequently lived and practiced medicine in the township of Evergreen.

Until 1862 there was no postoffice in Sidney, the one at Stanton being the nearest. On the 20th of September, of that year, Montgomery Blair, then postmaster-general, appointed Joshua V. Noah to the office, which he retained at his house for nine years.

THE FOREST FIRE.

As has been stated, in 1856 large tracts of timber were prostrated by the wind. On the 22d and 23d of August, 1857, severe frosts killed the corn and all garden stuffs, except cabbage and turnips. The grass also was killed. The leaves changed color, and soon began to fall from the trees and in a short time the ground was covered with them to a depth of several inches. Soon a fire, which spread with wonderful rapidity, broke out in the timber. The dry, crisp leaves were soon burned, but the fire did not stop here, but worked its way down into the mould and fallen timber, and day after day, during August, September, October, and part of November, the

crash of falling trees was heard almost incessantly. At times the smoke hung like a pall over the whole land, shutting out the sun and rendering the air almost irrespirable. Nearly everything of value to the settlers was destroyed. Fences, stacks of hay, wagons, and everything prepared for winter were swept away, and it was often with the greatest difficulty that the cabins themselves were saved. The suffering that followed in many instances was intense, but was alleviated by help from abroad. The fires continued until the late rains of the fall and winter set in and checked them. M. P. Follett was appointed to distribute goods to settlers in want. These goods were secured from the government by Jacob Ferris, who introduced a bill for that purpose. Some idea can be gained of the suffering of these times when it is known that it was almost impossible to get a day's work on any terms. Abner Hall cleared ten acres of land, laying up the underbrush ready to be burned, for ten shillings per acre. Pork at this time was twenty-five cents per pound, corn two dollars per bushel, and other things in proportion. Ira Barlow worked for Josiah Bradish, in Fairplain, for three shillings per day, and took as pay a small sheep valued at four dollars. Many left the township at this time. Most of those who remained at last gained comfortable homes, and it is probable that, with its fertile soil and rapidly developing resources, the want and privation of earlier years will never again be known in Sidney.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES.

The original purchasers of land in Sidney township are shown in the following list:

Section 1—Hugh H. Crapo, W. W. Crapo, Frederick Hall. Section 2—Augustus Paddock, Henry Crapo, W. W. Crapo, Frederick Hall, John G. Williams, G. A. Wilcox, W. H. Trowbridge. Section 3—Augustus Paddock, David Beard, Theodore P. Hoyt. Section 4—H. H. Crapo, W. W. Crapo, G. F. Noah, George A. Wilcox, Martin Beebe, Albert Dorr, Edwin Dorr, Joshua V. Noah, Asa D. Sherwood, Wood and Gilbert. Section 5—Stephen F. Page, Jacob A. Davis, H. H. Crapo, W. W. Crapo, James M. Soverhill. Section 6—Stephen F. Page, Sarah S. Peck, David Henderson. Section 7—George Rossman, H. H. Crapo, W. W. Crapo, George Wilcox, Philetas Kuhn, John Henderson, W. A. Pickney, Charles Madison, John Green. Section 8—H. H. Crapo, W. W. Crapo, George A. Wilcox, John Fleck, W. Coffey, W. R. Bates, William Messler. Section 9—Orin Phelps, H. H. Crapo, W. W. Crapo, Gustavus P. Hosmer, Abigail Hadley. Sec-

tion 10—Augustus Paddock, George A. Pillsbury, Gustavus P. Hosmer, S. F. Page, Sylvester Derby, Levi Camburn, E. K. Wood. Section 11—John Trisler, H. H. Crapo, W. W. Crapo, Jacob Smith. Section 12—Charles Merrill, H. H. Crapo, W. W. Crapo, Frederick Hall, George A. Wilcox, Edwin Cheesbro. Section 13—Charles Merrill, H. H. Crapo, W. W. Crapo, James Terwilliger, Silas Quiggle, Levi Gleason, Lyman Gray, Eliada Babcock, Mark Gardner, Wood and Gilbert, Royal Harrington. Section 14—William H. Chapman, George A. Pillsbury, H. H. Crapo, W. W. Crapo, Levi Gleason, Moses Gardner, Royal Harrington, R. H. Bennett. Section 15—Benjamin F. How, C. Crane, Giles Gilbert. Section 16—Joshua V. Noah, Charles Kellogg, A. B. Amsburg, Richard Amsburg, Ransom D. Smith, Amos L. Frenk, B. F. Bailey, John Brown, Henry Courter, Joseph Courter. Section 17—David H. Elliott, Norman Hamilton, Henry Courter, Joseph H. Stearns, William Harding, W. R. Bates, Elias Steel, Elmore Fullmer, Cornelius Courter, Emma A. Ripley. Section 18—John Porter, Hiram Rossman, Sarah S. Peck, Leonard D. Huhn, John D. Smith, Philetas Kuhn. Section 19—H. H. Crapo, W. W. Crapo, Edmund Lafferty, George Van Ness, William Thilds, P. J. Hardy, William L. Van Slyke, John H. Van Ness. Section 20—William Lampman, George Meginley, Z. B. Grover, A. R. Grover, John H. Van Ness, Martin T. Hawley, S. W. Tupper, M. M. Sanford, William R. Bates, J. B. Barr. Section 21—Samuel Monroe, George Ditmars, John Lampman, J. V. Noah, Lyman Johnson, Henry Gillmore, L. O. Smith, Ezekiel Gable, Hezekiah Fist, William Noah, William Shephard. Section 22—Charles Merrill, Samuel Monroe, George A. Pillsbury, John H. Van Ness, Stephen Tucker, Isaiah Jervin, William E. Lacy, Thomas Wilson, S. Spaulding, Emma Ripley. Section 23—Charles Merrill, Charles Bean, George A. Pillsbury, Erastus P. Brown, William H. Chapman, Gilbert Cook, Samuel Starr, Helen A. Ayers, W. D. Legg. Section 24—Charles Merrill, Charles Bean, Louis S. Lovell, Albert G. Sinclair, William H. Chapman, C. C. Darling, Erastus P. Brown, Luther Bennett. Section 25—Charles Merrill, Horace Bennett, Benjamin Roosa, William B. Stone. Section 26—Charles Merrill, Abner Hall, Nelson Tousley, Joseph Pitcher, John Abbott. Section 27—Adam Ackler, Jacob Ackler, Jacob Portussen, James Fox, George Spoon, John Dager, Charles Merrill, Samuel Monroe, D. Towsley, Phineas Swift, Jr., George Macomber, Chester L. Mann, William D. Brown, L. Towsley. Section 28—Paul Kendrick, Joseph C. Bailey, George A. Pillsbury, Charles Miel, Henry Gillmore, Albert Lobell. Section 29—George Rossman, Edward B. Edwards, Chester H. Miel, Daniel Swift, John Bates, Charles J. Colt,

George Hall. Section 30—Silas Hamilton, George Rossman, E. B. Edwards, Henry B. Tripp, Hiram Rossman, Norman Ferris, W. S. Patrick. Section 31—David Pierson, George Rossman, E. B. Edwards, Charles Baker, Asa D. Starkweather, Nathaniel Ferris, Ezra Hamilton, Lorenzo D. Palmer, Jacob Ferris, Louisa Ferris, P. R. Howe, George B. Isham, William R. Bates. Section 32—William R. Bates, Alden A. Jenne, John Wheeler, Joseph C. Bailey, E. B. Edwards, Samuel Gillmore, Lyman Johnson, Caleb J. Barnes. Section 33—Ira Davenport. Section 34—Franklin S. Freeman, Ira Davenport, Joseph C. Bailey, Welcome Butterworth, Christian Fox. Section 35—Welcome Butterworth, Ira W. Barlow, Edward McIntosh, Charles Merrill. Section 36—Roda A. Lampman, Elias Peterman, Mary Delong, Theodore Lampman, John G. Williams, Francis Smith, Leroy Forbes, Erastus P. Brown, William D. Legg, J. W. Fairfan.

COLBY.

Colby was never platted and was only the location of the Colby Brothers saw-mill, which at the time of the lumber industry in this section, was one of the largest mills in the county. Colby was located in Sidney township, on the present location of the Colby ranch.

SIDNEY.

The village of Sidney, in Sidney township, dates from the coming of Joshua V. Noah and his two sons, Joshua, Jr., and George, to what is now Sidney township, in the fall of 1855. They had lived in Summit county, Ohio, and, seeking a desirable home in the wilderness, located land and built a cabin in the woods about a half mile west of the present village. After spending the winter in Michigan, the father returned to Ohio in the spring of 1856 and brought back with him his whole family, including his son, William Noah, and William's wife and two children. They arrived at the cabin on May 15, 1856. Lyman Johnson, who had also come from Ohio, settled with his family a few rods south and west of the Noah cabin in 1855. Henry Gillmore and his family had already settled one mile south and one-half mile west of the village when the Noahs arrived in 1856. The Noahs and Gillmores were related.

William Noah may be said to have been the first citizen of the present village. With his wife and two children he lived with his father until he built his own cabin on the site of property now owned by Lars Peter Han-

sen in the village of Sidney. The venerable William Noah, who is a veteran of the Civil War, having served valiantly as a soldier in the Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, was born in Summit county, Ohio, August 14, 1831. In 1865, after his return from the Civil War, William Noah established the first store in his cabin in Sidney with money he had saved as a soldier. He purchased merchandise to the value of one hundred dollars at Ionia and ran the store for a year or two. Later, he built a store for Charles Kent, of Fairplain, who was in business for one year. Kent became discouraged and the store reverted to Mr. Noah, who next operated it for three or four years. The building erected by Mr. Noah is now the rear of the store occupied by Frank G. Hanson. Finally, Noah sold the store to his brothers, Orange and John Noah, who had a shingle-mill just thirty rods west of the village.

Ezekiel Gable established the first saw-mill at Sidney, but after his untimely death, his son and William Noah had charge of the mill, purchasing the interests of Mr. Gable's other heirs in the business. Subsequently, Mr. Noah took two of his own sons into the business, but one of the sons sold out to the other, and father and son, George, operated the mill as long as there was any timber, or until about 1900.

James Sibley opened the first blacksmith shop at Sidney on property owned by William Noah about 1870. The first physician in the village was Dr. F. O. Tefft, who came to Sidney a few years ago and who is still in the active practice of his profession.

Sidney has two churches, the Congregational and Danish Lutheran. The Congregational church was established in 1887. Its first pastor was the Rev. Arthur Claflin, who assisted in the building of the church. It cost about one thousand dollars. There are at present eleven members. The Danish Lutheran church at Sidney was erected about thirteen years ago. Before the present building was erected, the congregation met at North Sidney, one mile west and one mile north of the village. The church, which has a membership of twenty-one, has a resident pastor, the Rev. Waldemar Nielson. Its first pastor was the Rev. Rasmus Nielson, and the pastor when the church was built was the Rev. P. H. Miller.

There are only two secret orders in Sidney, the Danish Brotherhood and Gleaners. Both are well established.

The industries of the village include a cheese factory, of which R. R. Beam is president, and Nelson Lamb, secretary-treasurer. It has an output of about forty thousand pounds annually and is a co-operative enterprise.

Libby, McNeil & Libby have a pickle station at Sidney, and Charles Burgess owns a large elevator and deals in coal, lime, cement, lumber and tile. Sidney ships nearly two hundred carloads of potatoes to distant markets every year.

The three general stores in the village are owned by Hans Peterson & Son, Frank G. Hanson and A. G. Grosvenor. The meat market is operated by Carl Tyrell, and the two blacksmith shops are operated by James Anderson and Waldemar Thomsen. The village also has two barber shops and a drug store, run by R. Finch. The postmaster is N. J. Rossman.

CHAPTER XXII.

WINFIELD TOWNSHIP.

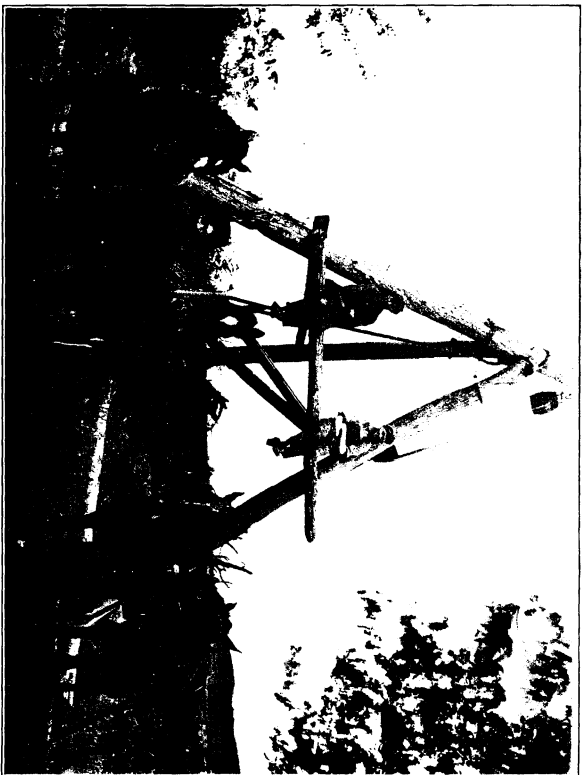
Winfield township, as described on the government survey, consists of township 12 north, range 9 west, and is bounded on the north by Mecosta county, on the east by Cato township, on the south by Maple Valley, and on the west by Reynolds. Upon the erection of Maple Valley, Winfield took on its present boundaries.

A petition, signed by D. E. Knight, E. R. Ellenwood, Leonard Rossman, John Van Sewin, Allen Macomber, Henry Macomber, Isaac Gileo, C. C. Johnson, Nicholas Whitecell, J. T. Rust, Ira M. Hale, C. D. Kellogg and E. J. Blanding, who were all residents and freeholders of towns 11 and 12 north, range 9 west; and George M. Pierson, James S. Ferguson, E. R. Ferguson, John Day, Samuel Day, John W. Ross, James Coleman, Horace Purdy, James Hart, Conrad House, Hendrick Rice, Daniel Caroney, O. N. Andrews, Henry M. Carpenter, H. Rice and John Rip (there were two other names on this petition but they had been written in pencil and had faded until they could not be deciphered), who were all residents and freeholders of towns 11 and 12 north, range 10 west, dated on May 13, 1861, was presented to the board of supervisors of Montcalm county. These petitioners represented themselves as "actual residents and freeholders of the township of Pierson, which township was at that time attached to Montcalm county for judicial, municipal and representative purposes, and is comprised of townships 11 and 12 north, ranges 9 and 10 west, and that since it would be much more convenient for the residents of townships 11 and 12 north, range 9 west, to be organized into a separate township, they prayed that the board of supervisors detach townships 11 and 12 north, range 9 west, from the township of Pierson, and to organize the same into a separate township, to be called Winfield." They also asked that the first township meeting be held at the house of John B. Moon on the first Monday of April, 1862, at eight o'clock, and that Eben R. Ellenwood, Leonard Rossman and Isaac Gileo be appointed inspectors of this township meeting and election.

This petition was acted upon, and after due consideration was passed by the board of supervisors on October 16, 1861, and the township of Winfield came into existence.

ORIGINAL LAND ENTRIES.

Section 1—Isaac Gilleo, Samuel Rose, Caleb Johnson. Section 2—Peleg Soule, Edwin Royce, Francis G. Strang, James B. Reynolds, George Hockett, Edgar L. Gray, William S. Long, Joshua Wycoff. Section 3—Allen Wright. Section 4—Jacob B. Bush, Allen Wright, Marinda E. Rust, Martha Smead, Seth Beal, Manson Millard, Eleazer Cleveland, Albridge Rust, Edorn Beckley, Barton King, George Beckley. Section 5—Charles Merrill, David D. Hoag, Allen Wright. Section 6—David Hoag, Martin Ryerson, Robert Morris. Section 7—David D. Hoag, Manson Orton, J. Orton. Section 8—David Hoag, John Squires, Martin Ryerson, Robert Morris, Austin J. Peck, Edward J. Curtis, Alfred B. Rust, Albert Rust, Amasa Watson. Section 9—Alfred Rust, Edward J. Curtis, Edgar Gray, A. F. and H. J. Orton, Joseph N. Cornell, Reuben W. Smead, Jacob H. Swarthout, George A. Crane, Peter Johnson. Section 10—Seth Holcomb, Joseph Prior, Reuben Whiteman, John Bisbee, Peter Johnson, Joseph Pier-son, Manson and Henry Orton, Edgar Gray, Allen Macomber, Henry Yen-kee. Section 11—Seth Holcomb, Peleg Soule, Abner Sherwin, Albert Rust. Section 12—William Rose, Samuel W. Rose, Isaac Gilleo, Seth Holcomb, Peleg Soule. Section 13—Hiram Scott, Eli Westlake, Nelson Chambers, Allen Macomber, Fite Rossman, L. Rossman, Eben Ellenwood, Harmon Rossman, Manson Orton, H. J. Orton. Section 14—Luther G. Vanbuskirk, Stephen F. Page, Peleg Soule, Nelson Chambers, Moses Swarthout, Melvin Martin. Section 15—Stephen Page. Section 16—John Bobasco, James Ferman, John Borden, Benjamin Coe, Alfred Macomber, John Aikins, Peter Johnson. Section 17—John Squires, Kelly Fuller, Jacob Hale, Charles Kellogg, A. E. Macomber. Section 18—John Squires, A. F. and H. J. Orton, Edgar L. Gray, Albert Rust. Section 19—James Sanborn, Byron Squires. Section 20—John Toorman, James Sanborn, John Wetherby, John Roches-ter, Edgar Gray, Levi Pratt, William Snyder. Section 21—James W. San- born, A. F. and H. J. Orton, Edgar Gray, Emily W. Ferman. Section 22— James Sanborn, Peter Gage. Section 24—Eben R. Ellenwood, Allen Macom-ber. Section 25—Marshall Stark, Luther Vanbuskirk, Peleg Soule, E. Pren- tiss. Section 26—Ethan Prentiss, Martin Ryerson, Robert Morris, Peter Johnson, Charles Hills, Ezra Stevens and Henry Getty. Section 27—Ethan W. Prentiss. Section 28—James Sanborn, Martin Ryerson, Robert Morris, Oliver Miles, William Miles, Patty McPherson, George Rykert, Samuel G. Hutchins, Ira W. Mason, C. Fossold. Section 29—James Sanborn. Sec-



PILING STUMPS, NEAR STANTON.

tion 30—Peter Sanborn, James Sanborn, Orin Willard, Martin Ryerson, Robert Morris, John Chubb, John W. Rochester, Edgar Gray, John Borden, John H. Simmons. Section 31—Peter Sanborn, Edgar Gray. Section 32—Peter Sanborn, James Stevenson, George N. Rykert, Edgar Gray, John Loree, Henry Henkel. Section 33—James Sanborn, John Loree, George W. Rykert. Section 34—Jeremiah Rudes, Clayton Wood, Francis Kellogg, Caleb Weaver, John Holcomb, Englehand Debus.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

Although the first settlement of Winfield is involved in some obscurity, there is little room for doubt that Isaac and Chauncey Gilleo were the first to locate permanently within its borders. On the 7th of June, 1855, assisted by William Russell, who owned the saw-mill at Langston, and by whom they had been employed, these young men came to Winfield, then a part of Pierson, and entered land on sections 1 and 2. Many selections had been made and much land entered in the township previous to this time for the purpose of actual settlement, but none of the parties had yet returned to attack the heavy growth of pine, beech and maple. And although the land pre-empted by the Gilleo brothers lay in the north part, it is not to be inferred that there was no government land to the south. The hardwood belts, it is true, had nearly all been entered, but valuable tracts of pine were passed by as worthless. The young men referred to selected a very fine tract of land, and built a cabin of poles and bark, the first in the township. They also at once commenced a clearing, a part of which they soon after planted to potatoes and turnips. Owing to the lateness of the time of planting, however, the yield was not large. Previous to this time (when is not known) the Indians had made a partial clearing by underbrushing and cutting all the smaller trees on a considerable tract in the west part of the township, to the south of this place, and it is probable that they had raised several crops. In the spring of 1856 they made sugar here, but subsequently went to the North, where they remained.

The clearing commenced by the Gilleos grew to a field of more than four acres during the winter of 1855-56, which, in the spring, they planted to corn and vegetables. Thus they lived, cleared land, made shingles, shot deer, of which there was no lack, occasionally a bear, did their own household work, and carried their provisions from Langston or Greenville, the former fifteen and the latter twenty-five miles distant. In the fall they

sowed the field to wheat, and the crop, which when threshed with a flail amounted to eighty bushels, they sold for sixteen dollars, and with this they started on a visit to friends in Pennsylvania, between four and five hundred miles distant.

In the summer of 1855 William Rose came to Winfield. He built a small hut, in which he and three children and a grandchild lived some years. When, subsequently, Mr. Rose offered his farm for sale, it was spoken of as having a dwelling house upon it. When he called he found a cabin about ten by twelve feet. A few boards laid down on the ground served as a floor. The door was also made of rough boards. There was but a single pane of glass in the whole cabin, and from a dilapidated old stove a small pipe reached but part way to the hole in the roof, and the smoke, which when the elements were at peace, filled the cabin nearly to suffocation, in the slightest wind made it unendurable to the inmates.

Mr. Rose was a very intelligent and well-educated gentleman, who had been brought to extreme poverty by business reverses. He was anxious to sell his farm with the slight improvements. H. C. Smith became the purchaser, and in 1863 moved into the township, where he lived for a long time. He was the first carpenter to locate in this part of the county, and hewed the timbers for the first mill in Lake View, for Allen Macomber, and built the first frame barn in Cato township, for Albert French.

The third settler in Winfield was Caleb Johnson (a brother-in-law of Isaac Gilleo), who, in the fall of 1856, came in with his family and entered land on section 1. He moved into the log house which the Gilleos had built the year previous, and the next summer he commenced a clearing on his own land. He also built a house and set out the first orchard in the township. William C. Johnson, his son, who was born in April or May, 1857, was the first child born in Winfield.

In the spring of 1860 the invalid sister of Isaac Gilleo, who had been brought from Pennsylvania when the brothers returned to the township, died, and was buried on their farm, but was subsequently removed to the cemetery on section 1, which was deeded to the township by Nicholas Whiterell, upon whose land it was located. This was one of the first deaths in the township. This farm was later owned by Judge J. M. Dickerson, a native of Yates county, New York, who came to Michigan in 1863. He was elected judge of probate in 1868 and became a resident of Winfield in 1873.

Moses Swarthout was an early settler in the east part of the town. He located on section 14, where he cleared a farm and placed it in a good state

of cultivation, upon which he lived until about the year 1871, when he became a resident of Cato.

The farm settled by Henry Maconber was later occupied by William W. Kelsey, who came to Winfield in an early day, but did not become a permanent resident till the lapse of several years. He was in the Union army, and, it is said, was condemned to die for sleeping on his post, but through many extenuating circumstances, was pardoned, after which he was wounded in battle. He served as town clerk for several years.

In the winter of 1860-61 Reverends Ardrige and Church came to the township and held a series of meetings at the house of Henry Maconber. They remained several weeks in the vicinity, and although a number were baptized, no regular organization was effected. The weather was extremely cold, and an opening was made through the ice in Tamarack creek in order to perform the immersions, which were the first in the township.

The first saw-mill and store were in the northeastern part, on the farm later owned by Judge Dickerson. The mill was built by Mailen Harrington and John Huatt, who brought in a portable engine and mill.

E. H. Garbutt and William Kelly opened the store, which was one of the first in the north part of the county. These supplied wants long felt, and were a valuable addition to the business interests of this locality. This store was afterwards purchased by Samuel and Abner Weeks, the former being appointed postmaster, and the first office being opened at this place.

Seth Beal, an early settler, located on section 9. He was a man of great strength, and at one time he carried eighty pounds of sugar to Croton, which he traded for eighty pounds of flour, and in addition to this load, brought home several tin pans and some smaller articles and made the entire distance of thirty-six miles in twelve hours. He subsequently moved from the township to Missouri. A part of the land entered by Mr. Beal was later owned by John Gaffield, who came to Winfield from Canada.

H. L. Barton located on the southwest quarter of section 9. James Stevenson settled on the north half of the southwest quarter of section 32, in 1860. He was among the first settlers in this part. He served in the Union army three years.

AMBLE.

Amble, which is located in the center of Winfield township, on the Pere Marquette railroad, was platted on July 8, 1886. The proprietors of this village were David L. C. Eaton, Nathan W. Merrill, James T. Hall and Thomas Fisk. Parker Merrill surveyed and laid out the town. This is the

only town in Winfield township and has never reached the desires of its original proprietors. It was named in honor of Rev. Ole Amble, of the Danish Lutheran church. It began its existence after the lumber industry had reached its height and has failed to prove a railroad center, as was desired. At present there is one church in Amble, and the business of the town consists of one general store and a creamery.

Like many of the other villages of the county, Amble has not attained much size. The present business interests of the village are the general merchandise stores of Peter Hansen, and Olsen Brothers, the latter being erected in 1915. Amble also has a co-operative creamery, which receives excellent patronage from those interested in this association, and also from other dairy raisers in this community. Louis Waldo operates an elevator in this place. Amble has a population of approximately one hundred and draws its resources from a rich farming community in which it lies.

CHAPTER XXIII.

AGRICULTURE IN MONTCALM COUNTY.

While Michigan does not rank with the prairie states in the production of certain cereals such as corn, wheat and oats, its acreage of corn in 1911 amounted to 1,690,000, and its production in bushels to 55,770,000. Of course, this production does not compare with the production of Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa.

In 1911, 1,025,000 acres were sown to wheat in the state of Michigan, which ranked eighth in the whole country. The average yield of wheat per acre in Michigan was 18 bushels, which compared very favorably with the yield in the prairie states. It is significant that there has been a steady increase in the yield of wheat per acre in Michigan since 1870. The ten-year average yield in 1879 was 14.7 bushels and in both 1910 and 1911 the yield was 18 bushels per acre.

In the North Central group of states east of the Mississippi river, Michigan also ranks last in the production of oats, but the yield per acre nevertheless compares favorably with that in other states of the group.

In the production of rye, Michigan is the first state in the Union in acreage sown and second in annual production. In 1911 the total acreage of the state was 400,000 and the total production was 5,840,000 bushels. Only Wisconsin produced a larger crop. The average yield of rye per acre for the ten-year period from 1900 to 1909 was 15.1 bushels. Montcalm county ranks high among the counties of Michigan both in acreage of rye sown and in annual production.

ACREAGE AND YIELD OF POTATOES.

It is in the production of potatoes, also, that Michigan and Montcalm counties, especially, takes high rank. In acreage planted to potatoes, Michigan ranks second only to New York, that of the latter being 375,000 in 1911 and of the former 330,000. In annual production, Michigan ranks second only to Wisconsin, that of the latter being 32,480,000 bushels in

1911 and of the former, 31,020,000 bushels in 1911. The ten-year average yield of potatoes in the United States is 91.4 bushels and in Michigan the ten-year average yield is 88 bushels. The production in 1910, however, was 105 bushels per acre and in 1911 it was 94 bushels.

In the production of live stock, Michigan hardly compares with the great agricultural states of the Middle West and under the conditions can hardly be expected to show a favorable comparison. On January 1, 1912, there were in Michigan 634,000 head of horses and 4,000 head of mules. On the same date there were in the state 806,000 milch cows and 701,000 head of other cattle. At this time, Michigan surpassed Indiana in the number of milch cows and was only slightly below Indiana in number of other cattle. On January 1, 1912, there were 1,382,000 head of hogs in the state and about the same time 1,600,000 head of sheep of shearing age. In the production of sheep Michigan ranks second only to Ohio of those states east of the Mississippi river and is exceeded only by Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah, Washington, California and Oregon of those west of the Mississippi river.

The Michigan crop report for November 1, 1914, issued by the secretary of state, shows that Montcalm county ranked eighteenth among all the counties of the state in the acreage planted to corn but that it ranked first in acreage among the central counties of the state. The estimated acreage in 1914 was 43,374 with an estimated yield of 1,518,090 bushels or 35 bushels to the acre. In 1914, not only did Montcalm county rank first in acreage sown to wheat but it also ranks first in production among the counties of the central group which, besides Montcalm, include Bay, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Saginaw, Sanilac, and Tuscola.

In acreage sown to wheat in 1911, Montcalm county ranked third in the central group and in total yield it ranked fourth. The acreage sown to wheat in 1911 in Montcalm county was 12,340, the total yield 246,800 bushels and the average yield per acre 20 bushels. Huron and Sanilac counties surpassed Montcalm in acreage sown to wheat in 1911, among those counties of the central group, and Huron, Saginaw and Sanilac surpassed Montcalm in total yield.

So far as the acreage and production of oats is concerned, Montcalm county ranks seventh in the central group in acreage sown and eighth in production, the acreage being 20,123 in 1911 and the production 603,690 bushels. The average yield of oats per acre in 1911 was 30 bushels.

RYE IN MONTCALM COUNTY.

It is in the production of rye that Montcalm county surpasses every other county of the state. In 1911, 20,148 acres sown to rye in Montcalm county produced a total yield of 302,220 bushels, or 15 bushels to the acre. When it is remembered that Michigan ranks first among all the states of the Union in acreage sown to rye and second in annual production, the production in Montcalm county takes on added significance.

In the production of potatoes, Montcalm county also ranks very high. Only one county in the state surpasses Montcalm in either the acreage planted or the total production. This is Oakland county, one of the southern group. In 1914 there were 20,386 acres planted in potatoes in Montcalm county and 22,006 acres in Oakland county. Montcalm county produced approximately 2,364,776 bushels in 1914 and Oakland county 2,772,756 bushels. The yield per acre in Montcalm county in 1914 was 116 bushels.

Besides potatoes and rye, which are raised in abundant quantities in Montcalm county, beans also thrive in the county and the crop is gaining in popularity. In 1914 Montcalm county produced 134,180 bushels of beans on 13,418 acres. Two years ago, 1914, the state of Michigan produced 4,669,514 bushels of beans off of 414,035 acres, and the average yield per acre was 11.28 bushels. Of this, the central group of counties, including Montcalm county, produced a little more than one-half the total or 2,373,601 bushels from 195,163 acres.

Montcalm county also raised 1,200 bushels of barley off of 48 acres in 1914 and 24,661 bushels of buckwheat off of 1,897 acres. The county likewise produced 1,140 bushels of peas from seventy-six acres, and 1,352 tons of sugar beets from 169 acres; also 41,900 tons of hay from 31,985 acres.

Thirty-six per cent. of the farmers of Michigan used commercial fertilizers in sowing wheat in 1914, 43 per cent. in the southern counties, 37 per cent. in the central counties, 10 per cent. in the northern counties and 8 per cent. in the upper peninsula.

LEADING POTATO MARKETS.

From the fact that Montcalm county takes high rank as a potato-raising county, Greenville and Stanton are naturally large potato markets. Pota-

atoes, probably more than any other product, have made the county well known throughout the country. In fact, Greenville and Stanton are two of the largest shipping centers of potatoes in all the country. More mortgages have been paid off in Michigan from the income from potatoes than any other crop, perhaps, and it is to be remembered that Montcalm county produces more potatoes than any other county in the state, save one. This section already has an enviable standing in the production of potatoes and its future is well assured. Both Greenville and Stanton, especially, have superior advantages as shipping points.

Under authority of an act passed at the second extra session of the Michigan state Legislature in 1912, "the board of supervisors of each county is hereby authorized to appropriate or raise money by tax to be used for co-operative work with the Michigan Agricultural College in encouraging improved methods of farm management and practical instruction and demonstration in agriculture."

The act makes it the duty of each board of supervisors making an appropriation, or of any county in which any money shall be raised for the purpose of the act, "prior to the time same is available for use, to prescribe rules and regulations for the use and expenditure of the same." The money so appropriated or raised by tax must be expended under the direction of the board of supervisors in co-operation with the Michigan Agricultural College.

Under this act, county farm agents whose duties are to render expert assistance to farmers in all phases of agriculture have been appointed for several counties of the state. This act is an important step in the scientific development of agriculture in the state of Michigan and although no county farm agent has yet been appointed for Montcalm county, there is already a well-defined sentiment in favor of an expenditure of money for this purpose.

Commenting on the appointment of a county farm agent in Kent county, the *Howard City Record*, under date of November 11, 1915, has the following to say:

"In the discussion whether Kent county could afford the services of a county farm agent at \$2,000 per year, the *Grand Rapids News* pointed out that on a valuation of two hundred and thirteen millions of dollars the added cost would not exceed five cents per tax payer per year. How long will some false economists strive to belittle really important work? How could Kent county even think of affording the loss of such an important

feature? Happily, the appropriation is forthcoming in Kent. But in Montcalm we continue to dawdle and twiddle our thumbs."

COUNTY DRAINS.

Originally all drainage matters in Montcalm, as well as every other county of the state, were in the hands of the township board consisting of the supervisor, clerk and two justices of the peace. Applications for drains were made by petition of one-third of the freeholders whose lands were crossed by the proposed drain and these petitions were presented to the township board, which either rejected or granted the petitions. If the petition were granted, the drain was surveyed under authority of the drainage commissioner. Prior to 1897 a commissioner was chosen for each township, but by an act approved June 2, 1897, the office of township drainage commissioner was abolished and the office of county drainage commissioner established. For a number of years the county drainage commissioner was appointed by the board of supervisors, but the office was finally made elective and is now filled by direct vote of the people.

To the present drainage commissioner of Montcalm county has fallen the honor of supervising the final construction of one of the largest drainage projects in the history of the county. This is the Butternut Creek drain for which the original petition was filed in 1905. This drain, which has now been practically completed at a cost of \$33,268.50, drains an enormous acreage of land in Bloomer, Bushnell, Evergreen and Crystal townships. Altogether, the project covers about twenty-two miles of Butternut creek and its tributaries. The original petitioners for the drain were O. W. Wilson, E. J. Brown, C. E. Chandler, C. H. Ralph, R. Squires, A. Conklin, Orin Ranger, James A. Stringham, John H. Carey, J. J. Springsteen, Edward Ralph, Charles Davis, Jacob Boyer, John A. Lee, Orin Baxter, Lillian Isham, M. D. Health, T. B. Moss and H. W. Reasoner, of Bloomer township; George R. Lowe, T. B. Lovett, Ben Smith and Garner Smith, of Bushnell township; Hannah E. Long, Daniel Kidder, A. J. Holcomb and Amina M. Kidder, of Crystal township, and Jay Long, of Evergreen township.

Although the Butternut drain was halted by litigation for a number of years, the litigation actually was one of the by-products of the fight to have a new court house built at Stanton. Certain citizens who opposed the drain were friendly to Stanton's campaign for a new court house and the action of the board of supervisors was made to tally with Stanton's interests in the court house campaign. The opponents of the drain, moreover, urged

as an argument against it that a previous agreement with the petitioners relieved them from any moral obligation to be taxed in building it.

Another large drainage project completed some years ago in Montcalm county was the Prairie Creek drain, the original petition for which was filed January 31, 1903. The main channel of this drain covered a distance of nearly six miles but there were numerous extensions and branches, one of which was known as branch No. 5, one mile and sixty-eight rods long. The petitioners for the Prairie Creek drain were C. L. Heisler, Sylvester Arntz, F. H. White, William A. Rickner, F. M. Eitmear, H. H. Powell, Sherman Arntz and W. J. Dunn, of Evergreen township; Eli Squires, L. L. Jenks, Jacob Boyer, Eli Mack, W. H. Chambers, J. H. Jones, Mrs. E. S. Conklin, D. A. Newcomb, William A. Miller and Stoughton Mitchell, of Bushnell township. The work of construction on this drain began in 1904 and was finished in 1905.

USHERING IN GOOD ROADS.

The people of Montcalm county are thoroughly awake to the need of adequate drainage and nothing has had more to do with their thorough-going conversion in this particular than the realization that good roads are impossible until proper drains are laid. The attention of the people has repeatedly been called to this fact and liberal support of any meritorious project can now be depended upon. The antagonism to spending money for this purpose which was so marked in former years has largely disappeared.

The county drain commissioner either has just completed or has in process the following projects: Fisk and Johnson drain, Kneer and Robinson drain, Mud Lake drain, No. 5 drain, Maloney drain, Manzer drain, Gibson-Culver drain, Huckleberry Lake drain, Baker Lake drain, Stillwater drain, the outlet to the Wiedbrank drain, Brine drain, Gage drain, Siple drain, Fairplain drain, Dean Creek drain, and the Barkham and Summers drain.

The largest river of Montcalm county is Flat river, which has its source in the north central part of the county and, passing through Entrican, Langston, Gowen and Greenville leaves the county through section 35, in Eureka township. In the days when the timber resources of Montcalm county were being exploited this river was used largely to float logs down stream to market. Flat river is not navigable, however, and in fact there is no navigable stream in the county.

MONTCALM COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

While they throw no great light upon the status of agriculture in Montcalm county at the present time, the incorporation of various associations for promoting agriculture and stock raising are interesting in this connection.

The Montcalm County Agricultural Society, perhaps the first organization of its kind in Montcalm county, was formed at a meeting held on September 5, 1878. Before this, however, on October 15, 1861, the Montcalm county board of supervisors voted to raise one-tenth of a mill tax on the dollar for the benefit of an agricultural society. At the first meeting of the Montcalm County Agricultural Society the following officers were elected: President, E. D. Finch, Stanton; vice-president, Charles W. Blumberg, Douglass; secretary, F. H. French, Stanton; treasurer, Israel J. Lucas, Stanton; directors, Marcellus Palmer, Day; E. D. Hawley, Stanton; William F. Turner, Stanton.

According to the constitution adopted at the first session, the first annual meeting was held in Stanton on February 11, 1879. The society was then incorporated according to the laws of the state and before adjournment the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: President, Henry H. Hinds, of Day; secretary, F. H. Finch, of Sidney; treasurer, Israel J. Lucas, of Day; vice-presidents, Henry Kent, of Fairplain; Charles Blumberg, of Douglass; David Eschliman, of Ferris; R. W. Hoy, of Bushnell; H. G. Coburn, of Howard City; J. M. Dickerson, of Winfield; directors, Orville F. Mason, of Ferris; Marcellus Palmer, of Day; E. K. Wood, of Day; William F. Turner, of Sidney; E. D. Hawley, of Day; H. N. Evans, of Fairplain; A. S. French, of Cato.

A special meeting of the board of directors was held on May 1, 1879, when measures were perfected for fencing and improving the grounds of the society, the committee appointed to attend to such matters being E. D. Hawley, H. L. Bailey and M. A. Reynolds. Such committee were also empowered to control and rent the grounds.

On June 2, 1879, A. L. Slaght, F. K. Winsor, Giles Gilbert, M. A. Reynolds, John W. S. Pierson, R. T. Dyer, Wood & Thayer, Hawley & Pratt, Richards & Son, Oscar Fenn, Webber & Chapin, J. M. Weatherwax, R. S. Townsend, H. H. Hinds, E. D. Finch, A. De F. Gardner, William F. Turner and C. D. Allen loaned the society money to the amount of three hundred and ninety-eight dollars until the society was able to pay back the same.

The first fair was held on September 23 and 24, 1879, at Stanton, during which the receipts for tickets amounted to \$413.65 and at that time, from other sources, such as life-membership tickets, entrance fees, etc., there was also received \$505.52.

At the second annual meeting, held in Stanton on January 13, 1880, the following officers were elected to serve for one year: President, H. H. Hinds, of Stanton; secretary, M. H. Bachman, of Stanton; treasurer, J. R. Englebeck, of Stanton; vice-presidents, George W. Stanton, of Sheridan; John W. S. Pierson, of Stanton; David Eschliman, of Ferris; D. C. Carpenter, of Vickeryville; Charles Stinchfield, of Edmore; W. D. Bellows, of Langston; directors (one year), Alfred Stone, of Greenville; A. L. Smith, of Crystal; (two years) Mortimer Gillico, of Sheridan; Israel J. Lucas, of Stanton; (three years) Marcellus Palmer, of McBride; C. W. Blumberg, of Stanton; Henry Courter, of Sidney Center.

The second annual fair was held on the society's grounds at Stanton on September 22, 23 and 24, 1880, and proved a success. One hundred and thirty-three season tickets were sold, and two hundred and seven premiums, ranging from twenty-five cents to three dollars, were awarded.

Among those who, by the payment of ten dollars each, became life members of the society were C. D. Allen, O. T. Atwell, H. L. Bailey, C. W. Blumberg, O. O. Buckalew, C. W. Chapin, George W. Childs, L. Corey, George F. Case, R. T. Dyer, David Eschliman, John R. Engleback, F. H. French, M. E. Fanning, Oscar Fenn, E. D. Finch, William Fuller, D. M. Gardner, Giles Gilbert, A. De F. Gardner, Monzo Gilbert, E. D. Hawley, F. W. Higgins, H. H. Hinds, A. M. Hunt, Luther Handy, Fred Kaltenbeck, James W. Lowing, A. Levitt, Charles A. Loughlin, Israel J. Lucas, Nelson Lunn, E. B. Moore, Alvin Morse, James McGarry, J. H. Mathews, C. B. Nye, John W. S. Pierson, T. F. Pratt, William Pratt, E. R. Powell, J. W. Richards, M. A. Reynolds, Robert Smith, Norman Shepard, A. L. Smith, Stansell & Hurlbert, Willis Stansell, C. A. Thayer, William F. Turner, R. S. Townsend, Thomas S. Tew, George E. Wallace, E. K. Wood, J. Weatherwax, J. M. Weatherwax, F. K. Winsor, W. P. White, J. W. Willett and S. Perry Youngs.

The grounds for the Montcalm County Agricultural Society had been purchased originally by twelve citizens who each paid one hundred dollars into a fund for the purchase of real estate. After four or five fairs had been held the fair grounds were abandoned and the real estate reverted to the gentleman who had raised the fund of one thousand two hundred dollars. Later the property was sold and finally came into possession of E. D. Haw-

ley who owned the land originally. For some years the fairs had been especially successful on account of the local interest in stock raising. Then the interest waned and the fair was abandoned.

About the time the fairs were abandoned or a little later, the Stanton Driving Park Company was organized by Elvas D. Hawley, Clarence W. Chapin, Oscar Fenn, H. H. Hinds, Norman Shepard, Israel J. Lucas, Montgomery A. Reynolds, John W. S. Pierson, Michael E. Fanning and William B. Pratt. This company was incorporated on January 31, 1888, with a capital of one thousand six hundred dollars.

The attempt to hold agricultural fairs had, in a way, preceded the agricultural developments of the county and it was natural that the fair was not long-lived. The Stanton Driving Park Company, which held three or four annual race meetings in August, on the fair grounds track, represented an effort to hold the interest in these things until the county was more nearly ready for agricultural fairs. While they were being held the race meetings were popular and successful altogether.

OTHER AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS.

The Northern Michigan Agricultural Society was organized in 1877, its first officers being Richard C. Miller, president; James Satterlee, secretary, and W. Backus, treasurer. The fairs of this society were held at Greenville for a number of years and were very successful, the receipts averaging \$2,500 yearly.

The Greenville Fair Association, Ltd., was incorporated on November 29, 1905, by Theodore I. Phelps, David Jacobson, William W. Slawson, William D. Johnson, Meno S. Dadles, Frank S. Gibson, Junius E. Osmon, Ernest A. Kemp, Frank Nelson, Eli S. Clark, Charles M. Miller, Mikkel Skroder, Walter Feldt, William H. Browne, Gerrit J. Kastenbergh, John H. Temmink, Willard J. Kingsbury, Thomas B. B. Winter, William H. Bradley, Delmer H. Moore, Eugene Rutan, Duncan K. Black, Willard J. Bennett, Rufus F. Sprague, James T. Ridley, Lawrence C. Lincoln, James W. Belknap, Cass T. Wright, Charles L. Rarden, Fred E. Ranney, Chris Hanson, Charles W. Johnson, J. Edward Van Wormer, Horace L. Bower, C. Jesse Church, James Callaghan, Charles T. Ranney, Marvin S. Wood, Carlyle R. Kirkbride, N. O. Griswold, William H. George, John Rensman and James Ahern. The purposes of this association were to conduct annually a general fair and exhibition of farm products, implements and machinery, animals and fowls and all products of the house and field; all kinds of manu-

factured goods, wares, merchandise, machinery and implements; to provide for a track suitable for the speeding of horses, and to provide for and pay premiums for superior excellence in all exhibits.

On May 1, 1911, the Greenville Fair Association was incorporated with a capital of ten thousand dollars for the purpose of "conducting from time to time competitive exhibitions of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry and grain, fruit and agricultural products, and of farm and other machinery, tools, implements, utensils and vehicles, as well as of works of art and of skill." The incorporators included a long list of Greenville citizens.

Until 1910, the Greenville Fair Association was a limited partnership, but the re-organization in 1910 made it a stock company with a capital of ten thousand dollars, as above indicated. New buildings were added from time to time until at the present time the association has one of the most complete fair equipments in the state, considering the size of Greenville. It has prospered for ten years and each year has received good support. The 1915 fair was one of the best ever held, both from the standpoint of patronage and financial showing. The grounds consist of about twenty acres valued at one thousand six hundred dollars, while the buildings are valued at ten thousand dollars. The annual meeting of the fair association is on November 24, of each year. The present officers are A. M. Berridge, president; I. M. Nielsen, vice-president, and D. L. Beardslee, secretary-treasurer.

On November 17, 1897, the Citizens' Agricultural Society of Lakeview was organized "for the encouragement and advancement of agriculture, manufacture, and the mechanic arts," with John W. Kirtland as president; Allen Macomber, vice-president; Salem F. Kennedy, secretary, and Charles F. French, treasurer. The trustees included M. B. Divine, William Rae, M. W. Staples, Peter Peterson and Charles W. Northern. This society held several fairs at Lakeview and then disbanded. The fairs, however, were very successful for a number of years.

THE FAIR AND RACES AT HOWARD CITY.

The Howard City Driving Park and Agricultural Association was formed on October 24, 1891, and the first fair was held on September 27, 28, 29 and 30, 1892. It was very successful. During the year previous thirty acres lying on the south line of the village were purchased and cleared up for the fairground and a very fast half-mile race track built. Successful fairs were held annually each fall. After the fair of 1896 financial

difficulties were encountered following the hard times of the early nineties and it was decided to offer the grounds for sale to clean up the debts. In April, 1897, the grounds were offered for sale but no one bid them in and finally twelve men guaranteed the payment of the encumbrance, paid the amounts due, and became the owners of the property. The association's first officers were: President, John C. Collins; secretary, B. J. Lowrey; treasurer, N. W. Mather.

Finally eighteen business men formed an association in 1902 and again brought the fair to life, leasing the grounds from the owners for several years. The fair prospered and in June, 1907, twenty-six business men organized, purchased the grounds and buildings, and incorporated under the name of the Howard City Fair Association, holding annual expositions that steadily grew in interest and importance until 1913, when the stockholders voted to discontinue the fairs. The fair's surplus had been used up in taking care of the increasing expenses of maintenance of a plant that was steadily depreciating, and being able to pay off every dollar of indebtedness and stopping square was considered better than risking debt in the future. In the spring of 1914 the property was sold and the old fair-ground is now a memory, and the land a fine farm.

The Howard City track had a history such as few towns could boast. State records were frequently smashed and horsemen from several states always looked forward to the Howard City races. They were always hard-fought contests and the towns possessed many ardent fans who enjoyed the sport. Prominent among the stockholders and officers of the fair besides those named, were: S. C. Scott, J. A. Collins, W. H. Collins, W. H. Lovely, J. W. Lovely, J. H. Haskins, H. M. Gibbs, L. L. Church, J. H. Arbogast, Warren Lisk, C. G. Larry, Richard Perry, S. V. Bullock, Blaine Henkel, A. M. Cook, J. B. Haskins, W. J. Smith, Fred Ashley, J. B. King, John Watson and others.

The presidents of the fair were J. C. Collins, J. A. Collins, J. W. Lovely, J. B. King, Fred Ashley, W. H. Collins. B. J. Lowrey was the secretary continuously until 1908, when he was succeeded by J. B. Haskins. Treasurers were N. W. Mather, S. C. Scott, H. M. Gibbs, Fred Ashley and D. W. Clapp.

ORGANIZATIONS OF STOCK BREEDERS.

The Crystal Horse Breeders' and Turfmen's Association, of Crystal, was incorporated on August 31, 1907, with a capital of \$10,000 for the purpose of conducting trotting and running races, by Marcus Pollasky, C. W.

LaDu, E. E. Fuller, C. DeYoung, R. B. Smith, F. T. Kimball, S. N. King, H. S. Phillips, C. H. Morgan and George A. Fink.

The Richland Guernsey Breeders' Association was incorporated on June 2, 1908, with a capital of one thousand dollars, by Edgar S. Wagar, Harry E. Wagar, James Purdon, Frank L. Holmes, Archie Foster, Thomas W. Musson, William A. Wood, Angus H. McDonald, Frank Eitelbus, H. Peter Hansen, Hosmer P. Beebe, Herbert J. Wilson, John C. Sack, Michael Krohn, John F. Granzo, Minnie B. Thomas and Leo Ehrlich.

The Edmore Driving Park and Agricultural Association was incorporated on November 10, 1885, with a capital stock of two thousand dollars, and with William R. Jones, William H. Gardner, Harry W. Robson, James K. Train and William Brown as directors for the first year. The original stockholders included, besides the directors, James M. Corry, A. J. Briggs, F. G. Wagar, R. M. Wilson, S. Landon, Robert M. Orser, A. Emerson, A. P. Curtis, Charles E. Taylor, John Stone, Charles E. Brown, A. H. Farman, D. B. Morhead and N. L. Naragan.

The Montcalm County Horse Breeders' Association was incorporated on June 26, 1875, for the purpose of improving the "stock of horses" in Montcalm county. Its original capital was six thousand dollars and its incorporators were Myron Rider, Henry Hart, L. Judd Macomber, L. H. Colwell, L. B. Lester, N. F. Derby, J. H. Edsall, J. M. Bennett and H. A. Smith.

STORY OF OSCAR FENN.

While not typical of individual progress an article appearing in the *Stanton Weekly Clipper* of December 3, 1880, under the caption "Five Years Progress" may be regarded as somewhat typical and, in any event, descriptive of one Montcalm county resident's success, both in an industrial and agricultural way, during the late seventies.

"In the winter of 1875," says the *Clipper*, "O. Fenn, then register of deeds of Montcalm county, located his shingle mill about two miles north-east of Stanton in the midst of a five-hundred-and-twenty-acre tract of unbroken pine forest. There is yet about three months work and then the entire tract will have been manufactured into shingles, in round numbers, 50,000,000, exclusive of culls. The average price paid for shingles during the last five years has been two dollars per thousand as near as can be ascertained. This would make the gross value of the first crop from this 520 acres \$100,000.

"Mr. Fenn commenced clearing in April, 1877, and that fall harvested

his first crop, about 8 acres, and obtained about 10 tons of millet. That fall and the next spring he cleared 22 acres more land and harvested from it, and that cleared the previous spring, 16 acres of oats with a yield of 36 bushels per acre, from 5 acres, 8 tons of millet and from 10 acres about 15 tons of hay. In the fall of 1878 and spring of 1879 he added 53 acres to his clearing, and that fall harvested 18 acres of wheat, which yielded 24 bushels per acre; 35 acres of oats with a total yield of 1,050 bushels and 30 acres of meadow which made 35 tons of hay. In the fall of 1879 and spring of 1880, 69 acres more were cleared and in 1880 he harvested 60 acres of wheat, partly "stubbed in," and obtained 1,160 bushels of the finest quality of wheat, from 37 acres, 1,040 bushels of oats, from 55 acres, 65 tons of hay.

"This fall sufficient clearing was done to make the total number of acres under cultivation 200. He has 40 acres of wheat now in the ground and looking well, 75 acres seeded down for meadow. He has 120 acres of clearing now under way, which he proposes to have ready for wheat next fall. In 1878, Mr. Fenn erected a substantial frame barn on the premises 36x46 and the carpenters who built it laughed at him and wanted to know what he would use it for, presuming he could never raise enough produce on the place to make such a barn necessary. Notwithstanding this prediction, this barn was only a circumstance. In the summer of 1880, Mr. Fenn was forced to call in the aid of the carpenters again and build another barn, this time larger and better than the first. The new barn is 48x50 feet, with elevator roof. The outside posts are 20 feet and inside posts 32 feet. Under the whole structure is an 8 foot basement formed by the stone foundation upon which the barn rests. There is not a handsomer bit of masonry under any dwelling in the country. The barn is well built, handsomely painted and well lighted with windows and transoms over the doors.

"Besides these barns Mr. Fenn has a neatly-built granary 20x30 feet and two stories high. The produce of the farm this year filled them to their utmost capacity and it became necessary to store several hundred bushels of grain elsewhere. The farm is well cleared and the entire 200 acres of improvements are under good substantial board fences and the lay of the land is as good as any man can ask for. A first-class windmill pump supplies the water for the stock and a set of Fairbanks scales adjoins the new barn for the convenience of the farm. The farm is only one of many of like proportions that have sprung up around us within the past four or five years and will serve as an index to the rapid development of our country

and as index to our future agricultural prospects. There is no farming country in the world that can make a better showing than our pine lands, condemned as they are by the wisecracks of the old, worn-out agricultural districts of the East and South. Mr. Fenn's shingle mill is one of the best and best-managed mills in this section of country, with a capacity of 60 to 65 thousand per day. Thirty men are now employed in operating it, but as this mill in a few short months will have fulfilled its mission and become one of the things of the past, we deem it unnecessary to make any further mention of it in this connection."

This farm is now owned and occupied by Josiah Martin, who procured it from the heirs of Oscar Fenn.

MONTCALM COUNTY FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

Although the farmers of Montcalm county have met together in institutes for many years, the first institute held under the present arrangement, by which the work is done under supervision of a state superintendent of institutes, was held at the Greenwood Grange hall on December 29, 1908.

The state law requires that the Michigan State Agricultural College holds a two-day institute in each county having an institute organization and authorizes the holding of as many one-day institutes as conditions warrant. County institutes are now being held in about eighty of Michigan's eighty-three counties and in nearly all of these counties one or more one-day institutes are held in addition to the county institute. Besides the "county round up" institute held at Stanton on January 29 and 30, 1915, one-day institutes were held at Greenville, January 11; Sidney, January 12; Trufant, January 13; Lakeview, January 16; Edmore, January 18; Vestaburg, January 19; Crysta, January 20, and Fenwick, January 23. Two-day institutes were held at Howard City, January 14 and 15, and at Carson City, January 21 and 22.

In fifty-two Michigan counties women's congresses were held in connection with the county institutes in 1915. The first women's congress held in Montcalm county, according to the minutes of the secretary, was held at Lakeview on Friday afternoon, January 22, 1909. Since that date women's congresses have been held each year in connection with the county institute.

The first secretary of the Montcalm County Farmers' Institute was Thomas Brayman and at the first meeting held at the Greenwood Grange hall, E. K. Smith, of Hart, was the state speaker. At this meeting the fol-

lowing members were received: Howard City—A. W. Rogers, L. L. Church, William Hand, Austin Barber, Henry Miller, J. H. Haskins, J. C. Gilmore, W. H. Westbrook and Finley Schoonmaker; Morley—Levi Finch, C. Hess, R. Fry, J. W. Miller, Verne Cole, Thomas Gordin, Corwin Brayman, C. A. Houghtalin, M. E. Alverson, Matt Johnson, F. E. Cole, Clyde Cole, Frank Winright and Thomas Brayman. The receipts of this meeting were \$5.75.

The next meeting of this society was held at the Greenville Grange hall on December 30 and 31, 1908. The attendance was very good and twenty-three new members were received. A meeting was held at Trufant the following day, but the attendance was not all that could be desired as it was New Years Day. However, twenty-four new members were taken in. The next meeting was held at Butternut, January 4, 1909. E. K. Smith, the speaker, was very well liked and the attendance was very good. The meetings of the association on January 22 and 23 were of great importance and very interesting. They were held at Lakeview. The secretary's report submitted at this meeting showed the balance on hand to be \$36.51, the amount of the expenses being \$38.28. The report submitted at the close of the meetings in 1909 showed \$34.58 to be the amount on hand and the expenses \$17.78.

The first meeting held in 1910 met in Neff's hall on January 21 and 22. George Arnold was the president, O. J. Houghton the secretary and Jason Woodman of Paw Paw the conductor. The Woman's Congress was held in the Methodist Episcopal church on January 20. Mrs. Nellie Sackett was president, Mrs. O. J. Houghton the secretary, and Mrs. Creyts the conductor. Every one of these meetings was well attended.

The next meeting was held on February 8 and 9, 1911, in Neff's hall, with the following speakers in attendance: W. T. Taylor, of Shelby, Michigan; A. B. Cook, of Owosso, Michigan; E. J. Creyts, of Lansing, and George Arnold. The next meeting was held at Stanton where the next financial statement was submitted. It showed the balance on hand to be \$38.45, and the expenses to be \$17.63. George Arnold was the president at the meeting in Stanton; O. J. Houghton, secretary; L. R. Taft, state superintendent; J. N. McBride, conductor; C. A. Tyler, assistant conductor. A mid-winter fair was held in connection with this institute. One hundred dollars was paid out at this time, which was contributed by the people of Stanton. The next meeting was held at Sheridan on January 16, 17, 1913.

One-day institutes were held at Howard City on February 11, at Lakeview on February 12, at Vestaburg on February 13, at Crystal on February

14 and at Butternut on February 15, 1913. These meetings were all well attended and were made very interesting by special music provided for the occasion and the speeches were of interest to all.

In 1914 F. L. Dean was again the president, R. J. Thompson the secretary and treasurer and Charles B. Scully was the conductor. The first meeting was held in the Woodmans' hall at Vestaburg, January 13, 1914. Very interesting subjects were discussed and all pronounced it a good institute. The second meeting was held at Crystal and while the weather was very cold, the attendance was very good. The Silver family furnished fine music which was enjoyed by all present. Thirty-one members were secured at this meeting. Carson City was next visited. Eben Mumford of the United States department of agriculture gave a very fine address, and at this meeting sixty members were received. The next meeting was held in the court house at Stanton, January 16. A very fine address was delivered on the "Construction and Value of a Silo," during the morning session by Charles B. Scully, a state speaker. Governor Ferris also gave an interesting address on "Education" in the afternoon. Trufant was the next place on the list but the secretary was absent at this meeting so not much can be said regarding it. However, forty-four members were secured at this meeting. Greenville came next and the meeting was held there on January 20. C. E. Holmes of Lansing took up the subject "Our Boys and Girls" and delivered a splendid address. Charles B. Scully talked on "Our Opportunities" and several local speakers gave very good addresses. Eighty-eight members were secured at this time. The institute was held at Howard City on January 21. A. R. Brown and John I. Gibson were present at this meeting and to them was due much of the success attained at this time. A free dinner was furnished by the Board of Trade and ladies to 578 people that day.

The final meeting or "round up" of the Montcalm County Farmers' Institute was held at Sheridan on January 22 and 23, 1914. Doctor Hansen of Greenville talked on "Bovine Tuberculosis" and gave many helpful and interesting points. Charles B. Scully, C. H. Bramble and G. N. Outwell were other important speakers. It was decided that the next "round up" should be held at Stanton. F. L. Dean and R. J. Thompson were re-elected as president and secretary, respectively. The financial statement submitted at the end of the period showed a balance of \$20 and expenses amounting to \$299.05.

In 1915, the officers in charge of the farmers' institutes were F. L. Dean, president; R. J. Thompson, secretary and treasurer; L. R. Taft, of Lansing, superintendent. Mrs. Dora Stockman, of Lansing, was the con-

ductor of women's congress at Howard City. The "round up" was held at Stanton on January 29 and 30, E. C. Martindale, of Wilkinson, Indiana, being the conductor. R. B. Bailey, of Gaylord, Michigan, and Hon. James N. McBride, of Burton, Michigan, were the state speakers this year. The institutes held at the various places were better than ever and each community took their part in making them a success. The financial statement rendered for 1915 showed a balance on hand of \$27.25, the expenses amounting to \$86.

CONDITIONS IN PIONEER DAYS.

In these days when Montcalm county is producing nearly 2,500,000 bushels of potatoes, and more than 300,000 bushels of rye; when the enormous toll taken from the pineries of Montcalm county in bygone years is remembered, it is interesting to recount the experiences of the first settlers when the county was wholly undeveloped. One of these first settlers, the venerable Joseph H. Tishue, now of Stanton but formerly of Ferris township, has told an interesting story of "agriculture" in the early days. Perhaps it is best to let Mr. Tishue tell his own story:

"We came to Ferris on the 14th of August, 1853, to build a house on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 32, town 11 north, range 5 west. We returned to near Portland, Michigan, to our family and remained there until the 28th of December, of the same year. Then we moved in on the said described property. Our nearest neighbor was one mile away, and the next nearest, three and one-half miles. We had plenty of red men for neighbors but there were no other whites at that time. There were ten children in my father's family, I being the eldest boy. We lived in a log house, all the family living in one room and had a fireplace with which to heat the house and to cook. There was not a nail in the house except in the door and no window nor door when we moved into the house. There was two and one-half feet of snow on the ground at that time. My father and I could have carried on our backs all our household goods when we came. Our meat we got from the animals of the forest. We had one cow that we brought with us, and a yoke of two-year-old steers which we afterward broke for oxen. We built a little stable within thirty feet of the house in which we wintered the cow and oxen. It quite frequently occurred that we had to go out nights with a torch made of a pine knot and drive the wolves away from the cow and the oxen. This usually was my work as my father worked away most of the time.

"When spring came we had about two acres of the timber chopped off

and the brush burned. My mother and I did this, making a fire and drawing the brush and burning it all on the same ground because the snow was deep that year. We raised a very few potatoes, say twenty bushels, that were about the size of walnuts. My mother used to count them out to us when we went to dinner and we were allowed three apiece for breakfast and three for dinner but none for supper. In the fall of 1854 we sowed about three acres of wheat and two of rye on the ground. The next year, on the 14th of June, we had a frost that killed the wheat, so we never got any of it, but we got about a half crop of rye, no corn and scarcely anything else. Our practice was that when father worked out, I stayed at home. When he stayed at home I worked out, usually going as far south as Portland and sometimes farther to find work. We usually worked a week or two, and then took what we could carry on our back home to feed the family. After we crossed Maple river at Muir, we had to ford every stream we came to as there were no bridges. Many a time we came home to find the family gone to bed without supper because they had nothing to eat until mother cooked something we brought home.

"We lived on that farm more than five years, and did not have five pounds of sugar, tea nor coffee in the house during that time. I have often come home and found my mother weeping like a child because she was deprived of the necessary things of life and wishing herself back in Ohio, but I always said to her, "Mother, the sun will shine again for us," and it did later on. It was a common thing for me to take my dog and drive the deer from the wheat field in the winter because they were digging up the wheat and I have shot from the house many a deer in the barnyard, which was not more than six rods from the house. We had to watch our cattle when we fed them to keep the deer from eating their feed. The first winter we were there we 'bronsed' them. The next year we went to the marshes and cut marsh grass with which to winter our stock. We also fed 'bagas' and so got through until we raised corn and millet.

"There was neither a school house in Ferris when we came here, nor even a church building. The first school house was erected near our place. It was a little log building about twelve by sixteen feet, which had no floor in it, and but two little windows. Our seats were made of logs split in two and then legs put in them. The one that we wrote on was a little higher so it came up in front of us. The school teacher sat on a bench and had the same kind of bench for her material. It was quite common in those days for people to go to church carrying their rifles for protection from the bears

and wolves. I have known men to be treed by the wolves and kept up all night. We thought nothing of seeing a man come to church with a gun. We did not have the free school system in those days. The school was supported by a rate bill and the teacher boarded around among the patrons. My father had the largest number of children in the district and practically paid the teacher's wages.

"When we began clearing our farm we were poor and so girdled the oak timber. Then we let it stand until it got dry. We cut down the other timber, felled it all over the ground and when it got dry we burned it and logged it in heaps to make room for the crops. We did this to the first seventy acres of our farm. Later on, we bought another eighty acres in Crystal township, about a half mile from the homestead, which we also cleared. It was a common thing in those days as the settlers came in and began to build their houses, not to wait for an invitation to go to the raising. I used to go around later on with the oxen and gather up the girls for five or six miles around and dance all night. We also used to have many logging bees. When men got ready to log, everybody gathered up the logs, logged them into heaps, and then we had a dance that lasted nearly all night. I was one of the fortunate young men of Montcalm county. My father never bought me a pair of boots and I never had but two pairs of shoes that he bought me. I killed many a deer and made moccasins out of the hide and wore them, when I wore anything, winter and summer, until I was sixteen or more years of age.

"We had three means by which we could take government land when we came to Montcalm county, namely: A pre-emption right which we had to settle; second, a graduation right, paying seventy-five cents per acre for the land and in which the claimant was compelled to settle on it within six months; third, by paying the government price—ten shillings per acre. We took land under the graduation act. We came on it in the winter, because our time was nearly up after taking it in the spring. During the smoky fall of 1856 one incident occurred which I do not wish to omit. We had a small tract east of our house inclosed with a brush fence. Our cow and oxen were in this inclosure. We kept them there so as to have the oxen to use when we wanted them. My father was a very early riser. One morning when he got up it was quite smoky and he said that I should go and get the oxen. I could not find them nor the cow because the smoke was so dense. Finally we got hold of the fence and followed it around until we got to the bars by the house. It was within twenty feet of the

house and we had to leave the cattle in there. There were many days during the twenty days in which the smoke was so dense that we were compelled to peel bark and stretch a line from the house to the well and from the well to the barn to find our way there. We surely thought we were all doomed. Finally the smoke cleared away.

"We saw, one day, coming over the hill east of the house, three wagons filled with women and children, namely, the Bailey people. They moved to an adjoining farm and we knew then that we were not entirely alone. The same year my uncle, Christopher Hare, moved in and soon many others came, and we began to know that we were living in good old America. We brought with us a very vicious dog. Many nights I got up, scolded the dog and let in the red man who lay down by the fire. We used to trade flour or corn meal to the red man. He would take the flour sacks with him to the wigwam and tell us he would bring it back in so many moons. We never lost any sacks through the red men. In later years, I owned land where they used to camp—a large company of them, sometimes two or three hundred, every winter.

"I remained with my father until he had about sixty acres of improved land. At the breaking out of the Civil War I left my home on the morning of the 17th of April, 1861, and paid my own fare to the city of Buffalo where I enlisted in the United States navy. I served my time—one year—started home and came as near as Detroit. There I enlisted in the Union army and went back to the South."

CHAPTER XXIV.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION.

In the days before the first white explorers and settlers had set foot in Montcalm county, Nature's highways, consisting of streams and rivers together with pathways or trails through the dense forest, furnished the only avenues of travel. These not only were sufficient for all the purposes of the Indians who roamed over the country but they likewise served all the needs of the early French explorers and fur traders.

Many of these uncertain pathways through the forest traversed the territory of Ionia and Montcalm county, the principal ones following the valleys of the Grand, Maple, the Looking Glass and the Flat rivers. There were others also of less importance which crossed the country in various directions and connected the broader ones, but all of them converged towards the villages of the red men and their crossings of the large streams. The Indians displayed considerable engineering ability in choice of ground for their routes of travel, for though rugged surfaces, swamps, lakes and overflowed bottom lands were avoided, still their courses were pretty direct, and the crossings of creeks and rivers were made at the most favorable places.

The first settlers in the various counties in Michigan soon learned these facts, and many of their early highways were so laid as to follow the routes taken by the trails.

INDIAN TRAILS.

Maps made by the United States deputy surveyors in 1830 and 1831 show that at that date the principal Indian settlement and points where all the trails in Ionia county converged was the village of Coccoosh (old hog), or, Mocketiquash, near the mouth of Maple river, or the vicinity of the present villages of Lyons and Muir. From that place the "broad Indian trail to Detroit" passed eastward across sections 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 in Lyons township. The same trail in its course westward crossed the Grand river at Genereau's trading post, and thence continued along the valley and on the north side of that stream, through the present townships of Ionia,

Easton, Keene and Boston, into Kent county, the route now pursued very nearly by the wagon road. Another trail ran parallel with Grand river on its left bank, but from Lyons westward, it was not so much used as the one on the opposite side of the stream. From Cocoosh village this trail passed up the left bank of the same river to near the southeast corner of section 8, in Dandy township. Here it crossed the river and led on southeasterly, via the Indian village of Peshinnecon (apple-tree place) towards Detroit. The surveyors in their field notes mentioned this as the "trail to Chigamaskin" (soft-maple place), which was an Indian village near Shiawassee-town in Shiawassee county.

The Saginaw and Grand river trail left the latter stream at Generau's trading post, and, thence passing up the valley of Maple river to the great bend in Gratiot county, crossed to the headwaters of Bad river and followed down its course and that of Saginaw river to the great Chippewa camping ground at Saginaw.

Besides those already mentioned, two trails converging at Cocoosh village bore off to the northwest, through Ionia and Ronald townships, into Montcalm county. Another left the Grand river trail on the site of the present city of Ionia, and, taking a northwest course across the townships of Easton and Orleans, intersected in the vicinity of Kiddville the main Flat river trail, which followed the course of that stream from its mouth away northward into the pine forests of Montcalm county.

STORY OF THE EARLY ROADS AND TRAILS.

Hon. E. H. Jones, at one time probate judge of Montcalm county, but now a resident of Denver, Colorado, came to Greenville in 1862 when there were only nine houses between the north end of Washington street and the Russell mill, now the village of Langston. Mr. Jones has a vivid recollection of the early roads or rather paths through Montcalm county and in the *Greenville Independent* of September 20, 1911, wrote an extended account of these early roads and trails.

"The track leading from Greenville to the Russell mill," says Mr. Jones, "wound through the pine woods, sometimes circling huge pines, but oftener passing over gnarled roots lying far enough above the ground to give the vehicle in which one was riding a severe jolt.

"A logging road," he continued, "leaving the line of the present state road at the point where now stands the Monroe school house, led west to what was then known as the Gregory Mills, now Gowen. On this road

there was neither house, shack nor shanty; the pine woods, untouched by the lumberman's ax, bordered this road on either side. Besides the mills there were a few weather-beaten houses and shanties at Gowen, but aside from a blacksmith shop and the mills there was nothing which bore any semblance to business, nearly all the wants of the people of the village being supplied from Greenville.

"From the Gregory mills there were several logging roads leading in a northerly direction, one of which led to the Dane settlement. From the Dane settlement another woods road led to a settlement on the Tamarack. This road was traveled also by the early settlers of Maple Valley, who found it the most feasible one to their base of supplies at Greenville.

"From the Bellamy corners, five miles north of Greenville, another road branched off from the line of the state road toward the east. This road was mostly traveled by those having business at the county seat, which had, on the first of January, 1862, been removed from Greenville. But there were other roads in the vicinity of Greenville which were often traveled, roads which had never been worked, but became better as the amount of travel upon them increased. No man knows when they were laid out. It is certain, however, that were traveled long before the office of highway commissioner was established in the United States. These roads were the Indian trails.

"One trail led up the river, on the east side, striking the south line of the city not far from the old brick yard. From this point, running nearly parallel with the general course of the stream, it crossed Washington street near the present locality of the Catholic church, then continuing in nearly a straight course to the top of the high bank, northeasterly from the Pere Marquette depot, thence northwesterly across the bend in the river, striking the stream again about half a mile above the north boundary of the city. From this last point, after many turns, sometimes near the river and sometimes at quite a distance from it's nearest bank, it led to Turk lake, where in early pioneer days, the Indians had one of their favorite camping grounds. This trail continued around the south side of Turk lake and thence in a northeasterly direction to the Dickerson lakes in Sidney and Douglass townships.

"This up-river trail was crossed very near the Catholic church by the Saginaw and Pentwater trail, the most conspicuous and interesting of the North Michigan Indian roads. Nearly fifty years ago this trail was quite distinct nearly all the way from Greenville to Bushnell township. It connected the waters of the Saginaw with streams flowing into Lake Michigan.

"This trail crossed Flat river a few rods above the Washington street bridge at the foot of the Baldwin rapids, thence following a sag between Washington and Cass streets, passing in its course about midway between the Watson house and barn, thence across the ground occupied by the Cole store. Crossing Lafayette streets, it passed near the north side of the Eureka block. The Eureka block stands on the trail. Thence it took in its course points near the Methodist church and the residence of the late David Eliot, continuing in the same general direction until it struck the river, the bank of which it followed to the site of the Indian village located about a quarter of a mile above the site of the old Merritt mill. Its course was then northwesterly to Bass lake, in Spencer township, and thence in a course which is pretty direct, but far from being an air line, to the point where Pentwater now stands on the shore of Lake Michigan.

"That portion of this last trail from Greenville to Woolverton Plains was not only the most direct but by far the best footpath leading north and west from Greenville. It was not strange, therefore, that it was the route taken by nearly all who were going or coming between the Underhill mills and Woolverton Plains to and from Greenville. From the Indian village another trail led to the Ziegenfuss lake.

"In those days if one wished to go to any point north of Greenville, the best thing to be done was to go on foot; if, however, one had plenty of time or had more baggage than could be carried, one might go to Seaman's livery stable in Greenville and for the sum of five dollars a day charter the only wheeled vehicle of the establishment, an old buckboard with old 'Jim' and 'Charley' as the propelling power."

Mr. Jones found that, among the trails he examined, none seemed near as old as the one leading from Saginaw bay to Pentwater. It was this trail that he urged should be marked by some enduring monuments.

FIRST STATE ROAD.

By an act of the state Legislature, approved on March 27, 1848, the first state road was authorized in the county of Montcalm. Its route was to extend from the north line of section 17, township 9 north, range 8 west (Eureka), thence to the village of Grand Rapids, via Parker's ferry in the township of Plainfield, Kent county, and Thomas Addison, George Miller and Ethan Satterlee were appointed commissioners. On the 3rd of April, 1848, George Gibson, Rufus K. Moore and George Loucks were chosen commissioners to lay out and establish a state road from "the quarter post

on the north line of section 17, in township 9 north, of range 8 west, thence to Mathew Van Vleck's, in Rolland, Ionia county."

A state road from Hastings, Barry county, via Tupper's mill to the village of Ionia, was established by an act approved on March 25, 1850, and J. W. T. Orr, John B. Welch and George Richmond were appointed commissioners. An act approved on February 10, 1857, named Rosecrans K. Divine, of Montcalm county; Abner Wright, of Ionia county, and Ephraim J. Booth, of Kent county, commissioners to lay out a state road from Greenville, via Brosse's rapids, to Lowell, Kent county. A state road from St. Louis, Gratiot county, via Alma and the geographical center of Montcalm county, to the Greenville and Big Rapids road, was authorized by an act approved on February 15, 1859.

An act of March 13, 1861, ordered a state road established from Ionia to Houghton lake, in Roscommon county. Two days later an act was approved providing for the establishment of a road from Big Rapids, in Mecosta county, southerly to intersect a road from Greenville to Grand Rapids, known as the Big Rapids and Grand Rapids road, also the Greenville and Big Rapids road, and a road from Ionia to Vermontville. It provided also that no appropriation be made on the first eight miles south from Ionia.

A road from the east center line of Bloomer township, via Follett's and Shoemaker's mill, in Fairplain, to the village of Greenville, in Montcalm county, was established by an act approved on March 18, 1863. On the 20th of the same month George Davenport was appointed a commissioner to superintend the lay out of a road from the village of Portland, in Ionia county, to the Grand river, in Clinton county. The Ionia and Smyrna state road was established by an act approved on February 5, 1864, and to aid in its construction four sections of swamp lands were granted. Roger W. Griswold and Joseph N. Babcock were appointed commissioners of the Bellevue and Ionia state road by an act approved on March 10, 1865.

LOCATING SOME OF THE EARLY ROADS.

The Montcalm and Gratiot road from Hubbardston, north on the line of Montcalm and Gratiot counties to the north line of said counties, was established by an act approved March 18, 1865. The Eaton, Ionia and Clinton road, from a line between Roxana and Oneida to the township of Portland, was established by an act of March 18, 1865, and S. W. Moyer, David Taylor and Benjamin Seldon were named as commissioners. By the

same act a road was established whose route extended from the geographical center of Montcalm county (Stanton), to the southwest corner of township 11 north, range 10 west (Pierson), and Hiram Rossman was appointed commissioner.

In 1867 a large extent of state swamp lands was granted to aid in the construction of roads already mentioned. The last state road established during that period in Montcalm county is the one known as the Greenville and Bloomer road, the provisions for its construction having been approved on May 23, 1879.

The minutes of the board of supervisors of Montcalm county show that the first money voted by the supervisors for building a bridge in the county was appropriated on October 14, 1851. At that time one hundred dollars was appropriated to build a bridge over Flat river on the section line between sections 10 and 15, in Eureka township. On April 11, 1853, the county board of supervisors voted to raise one hundred dollars for a bridge over Fish creek, on or near section 26, in Bushnell township, and also appropriated twenty-five dollars to build a bridge over Flat river near M. Rutan's saw-mill in the town of Eureka.

On April 10, 1855, the supervisors voted to raise fifty dollars to defray the expenses of the surveyor and the survey of the state road which was to be built by authority of the state from Greenville to the falls of the Muskegon river.

The first road, or rather the first opening in the forest, of Bushnell township, led from Palo northward to the saw-mill in Evergreen township. It was completed gradually. It led past the farm of Joseph Stevens and that of James Bacon, and was constructed the greater part of the distance through the township during the year 1840. Soon afterward the road was underbrushed in the east part of the township, and part of the way on the line between Bushnell and Bloomer townships.

AROUSING INTEREST IN GOOD ROADS.

From July 29 to 31, 1902, a "good roads exposition," under the auspices of the American Commission, the Montcalm County Road Makers and the United States office of public roads, was held at Greenville. At this exposition there was exhibited the most modern good-roads machinery for building and repairing roads. At this meeting addresses were delivered by Hon. Martin Dodge, director of public roads; Frank P. Rogers, consulting engineer of the Michigan highway commission; W. L. Dickinson,

president of the Connecticut Valley Highways Association; Senator H. S. Earle and others. Governor Bliss was also one of the speakers.

During the meeting of the Greenville Good Roads Association, a strip of road one-half mile in length was built north of Greenville. One-half of the road was on a gravel surface but the other half was on sand. Both portions stood well the test of the weather. The strip built of crushed stone became as hard as cement and was free from water. It cost at the rate of four hundred dollars a mile. Writing in the *Stanton Weekly Clipper*, December 6, 1902, Dr. A. W. Nichols, pointed out some pertinent facts with regard to road building in Montcalm county.

"One outfit, at the rate they built the road north of Greenville," said Doctor Nichols, "could build sixteen miles each year, or fifty miles with three outfits, or two hundred miles in four years. Four running north and south and four running east and west would cover the principal roads of the county. This could be done in four years, so in ten years at this rate there ought not to be a foot of unimproved road in the county."

Unfortunately, the progress toward building improved roads was not as rapid as Doctor Nichols hoped, but the agitation of 1902 was really a landmark in the history of road building in Montcalm county. The agitation has never died out and the sentiment for better roads in the county is more active today than ever. The advent of the automobile, or rather the popularization of this mode of travel, especially among the farmers of the county, has had much to do with this growing sentiment. Montcalm county has many splendid roads today. The main-traveled thoroughfares, especially those used by motorists, are as follow: From Ionia northwest to Belding, through Greenville and north to Lakeview; from a point just south of Correction, west to Pierson and south to Cedar Springs in Kent county; from Greenville southwest to Grand Rapids in Kent county; from Ionia, in Ionia county, north through Sheridan and Stanton to the Midland and Lakeview road at the boundaries of Mecosta and Isabella counties and from Stanton due east to the Gratiot county line and thence northeast to Alma.

STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION.

An act of the Michigan state Legislature, creating the office of state highway commissioner, was an important event in the good-roads movement of this state. In 1909 the road laws were consolidated in a pretentious act of twenty-four chapters, creating a state highway department charged "with the giving of instruction in the art of building, improving

and repairing public wagon roads and bridges, collecting reports from township and county highway commissioners, overseers of highways and superintendents and commissioners of streets in villages and cities, and with the distribution of any state reward for improving the public wagon roads, that this Legislature or any future session may provide for, or any funds that may be given to the state for such purposes by the United States government."

An important feature of this act is the section which provides that the state highway commissioner may "refuse to grant any further road reward to any township or county that has been rewarded by the state for improving roads, that does not keep these state-rewarded roads in proper repair."

This same act also provides that a county may elect whether it will operate under the "township" or the "county" road system, and separate machinery is provided for the administration of each system. Although there was some sentiment favoring the "county" system in Montcalm county, the proposition has never been submitted to the people for direct vote, as required by the consolidated act, and the county has continued to operate under the "township" system.

On June 15, 1911, the Greenville Good Roads Association was organized for the purpose of aiding in the construction of good roads leading into the city of Greenville. The directors for the first year, named in the articles of incorporation, were C. C. Larke, P. D. Edsall, H. H. Decker, J. C. Newbrough, F. A. Johnson, C. W. Riley, H. S. Jaconson, C. H. Gibson and Ray S. Cowin.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.

Very soon after Michigan emerged from a condition of a territory to assume that of a sovereign state, and even before its admission as a member of the Union, measures were originated having for their object the adoption by the state of a comprehensive system of public improvements; and in pursuance of this plan the Legislature, at the session of 1837, passed an act (approved March 20), "to provide for the construction of certain works of internal improvement, and for other purposes," by which the board of commissioners of internal improvements in the state was authorized and directed, "as soon as may be to cause surveys to be made for three several railroad routes across the peninsula of Michigan, the first of said routes to commence at Detroit, in the county of Wayne, and to terminate at the mouth of St. Joseph river, in the county of Berrien, to be denominated the Central railroad; the second of said routes to commence at the navigable

waters of the river Raisin, passing through the village of Berrien county, and to be denominated the Southern railroad; the third of said routes to commence at Palmer, or at or near the mouth of Black river, in the county of St. Clair, and to terminate at the navigable waters of Grand river, in the county of Kent or on Lake Michigan, in the county of Ottawa, to be denominated the Northern railroad; which roads shall be located on the most eligible and direct routes between the termini above mentioned." It was provided by the same act, "that the sum of five hundred and fifty thousand dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated, to be taken from any moneys which shall hereafter come into the treasury of this state to the credit of the fund for internal improvements, for the survey and making of the three railroads mentioned in the first section of this act, as follow: For the Southern railroad, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars; for the Central railroad, the sum of four hundred thousand dollars, and for the Northern railroad, the sum of fifty thousand dollars."

The state board of internal improvement, acting under the provisions of this act, caused the surveys to be made without unnecessary delay. The routes thus surveyed for the Central railroad and the Southern railroad were, excepting the western portion, substantially the same as those of the Michigan Central and Michigan Southern railroad of the present. The Northern railroad route was surveyed and located to run from the St. Clair river by way of Lapeer and Flint River village, now Flint city, nearly due west to the Big Rapids of the Shiawassee, now the city of Owosso; thence through Owosso and Middlebury townships in Shiawassee county, and westwardly in the same tier of townships through Clinton county (passing through the southern part of the present corporation limits of St. John's) to Lyons, in Ionia county, and from there westward to Lake Michigan at the mouth of Grand river, a distance of two hundred and one miles. This was the first survey made for railroad purposes near Montcalm county. The work was done by Tracy McCracken, chief engineer of the road, and his assistants under supervision of Commissioner James B. Hunt, who had been placed in charge of the survey by the board of internal improvement.

WORK STARTED ON THE FIRST RAILROAD.

In 1838 contracts were let for clearing and grubbing that portion of the line between its eastern terminus and Lyons, Ionia county, a distance of about one hundred and thirty miles. The contract for the section extending from Lyons to the line between ranges 2 and 3 east, near the center of Shiawassee county, was awarded to A. L. and B. O. Williams, of Owosso.

The section joining this and extending eastward across the remainder of Shiawassee county, was taken by A. H. Veach & Company, of Flint. The next section eastward was awarded to Gen. Charles C. Hascall, of Flint. Twenty miles of the section east of Lyons was sublet by the Williams Brothers to Messrs. Moore & Kipp at about two hundred and fifty dollars per mile. The specifications required the grubbing of a central strip twenty feet wide, and the clearing of a breadth of twenty feet on either side of this strip. Outside these clearings, on both sides, "slashings" were to be made, each twenty feet in width, making a total breadth of one hundred feet. The work of clearing the route was commenced in the fall of 1838, and by the 1st of September, following, it was completed in all the sections between Lyons and Port Huron, except about three miles in Shiawassee county, east of Owosso, and seventeen miles east of Lapeer.

Contracts for grading some parts of the line were made in the fall of 1838, among these being that of a ten-mile section eastward from Lyons, to B. O. Williams and Daniel Ball, of Owosso. The work of grading was commenced on the contracted sections in January, 1839, and was prosecuted till the following July. "The contractors then stated," said the chief engineer, in his report dated December 7, 1839, "that unless they were paid punctually they could not proceed with their work. I then informed them, in accordance with my instructions, that if they continued to work their estimates would, as usual, be made monthly, but that it was probable that they would only be paid in treasury orders, which would be payable out of any moneys received into the treasury to the credit of the internal improvement fund. The contracts for grading were then abandoned immediately, but those for clearing and grubbing, which were not then finished, have since been completed." In regard to these contracts for grubbing and clearing, the chief engineer said: "It may not be improper for me to state that it is probable that many of the contracts upon this road were let to those who considered that they were to be benefited by its speedy completion, and, in consequence bid so low that they have lost money in the prosecution of the works assigned them." This remark of the engineer was probably as applicable to the grading contracts as to those made for clearing the line. It is certain, at all events, that those who took the latter class of contracts found them to be decidedly unprofitable.

The last of the appropriations by the Legislature for the construction of the Northern railroad was one of forty thousand dollars made by act approved on April 20, 1839, making the total amount appropriated for the

enterprise one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Of this there was expended upon the line in surveys, clearing and construction, the following amounts, namely: 1837, \$8,226.25; 1838, \$12,772.44; 1839, \$39,122.09; total, \$60,120.78.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

These figures show that at the close of operations in 1839 there remained of the amount of appropriations made for this northern line of railroads, an unexpended balance of \$89,879.22. In view of this fact, it might be regarded as strange that with this large balance remaining, the work should have so suddenly been brought to a close; but it must be remembered that the figures indicating the unexpended balance did not represent a corresponding amount of ready cash on hand and immediately available. The extracts already given from the chief engineer's report fully explain the reason why the contractors abandoned their jobs in the summer of 1839, and it only remains to say that the construction of the Northern railroad, being suspended at that time, was never resumed. Today, however, the proposed route of the Northern railway is generally covered by the lines of the Grand Trunk system.

Soon after this, the financial embarrassments of the state caused a feeling to spread among the people and their representatives that the adoption of so extensive a plan of internal improvements had been premature, to say the least; and the result of this growing sentiment was the restriction of appropriations to such works as returned, or could easily be made to return, the interest on their cost. Accordingly, further aid was withheld, except to the Central and Southern lines, then in partial operation, and finally, in 1841, all idea of the construction of the Northern railroad as a state work was abandoned, and the Legislature passed "an act relative to the appropriation upon the Northern railroad," which recited in its preamble that "it is thought impolitic under the present embarrassments of the state, to make at present further expenditures on said road for the purpose of a railroad;" that "a large amount has been expended in chopping, grubbing and clearing said road, which, if left in its present condition can be of no interest to the people of the north;" and that "it is the united wish and request of the people in the vicinity of said road that the same should for the present be converted into a turnpike or wagon road, and thus open an important thoroughfare through the center of the tier of counties through which the said road passes, and thereby render the money heretofore expended on

said road available to the best interest of the people in the northern section of the state."

It was therefore enacted that the commissioners of internal improvement be directed to expend thirty thousand dollars of the unexpended balance of the moneys which had been appropriated for the Northern railroad "for bridges, clearing and grading said road, or so much of it as the said commissioners shall judge will be most beneficial to the inhabitants and public in the section of the country through which the same passes, so as to make a good passable wagon road."

RIGHT-OF-WAY CHANGED TO A WAGON ROAD.

On March 9, 1843, an act was approved "to authorize the construction of a wagon road on the line of the Northern railroad," and ordering the application and appropriation for that purpose of all the non-resident highway taxes for a distance of three miles on either side of the line, to be expended under the superintendence of a special commissioner to be appointed for each of the counties of St. Clair, Lapeer, Genesee, Shiawassee, Clinton and Ionia. The act was repealed in 1846, but in the following year another act was passed "to provide for the construction and improvement of the Northern wagon road from Port Huron, in the county of St. Clair, through the counties of Lapeer and Genesee, to Corunna, in the county of Shiawassee," and appropriating "twenty thousand acres of internal improvement lands" for the purpose.

To carry its provisions into effect the governor of the state was authorized to appoint a special commissioner, and he did so appoint to that commission the Hon. Alvin M. Hart, of Lapeer. Still another act was passed, in 1849, appointing Lewis S. Tyler, Albert Miller and Henry Hunt as commissioners, "with power to re-locate, upon the most eligible ground, the Northern wagon road from the village of Flint, in the county of Genesee, to the village of Corunna, in the county of Shiawassee."

The result of all the laws passed and appropriations made for the construction of the Northern railroad and Northern wagon road was the clearing of the route of the former, as before mentioned, and the grading or partial grading, of parts of the route into an indifferent wagon road, which never proved to be of much practical advantage to the country west of the western borders of Shiawassee county. This history is given more or less in detail because it deals with a period of development in which Montcalm

county was directly interested, even though it never derived much profit from the proposals.

PRESENT RAILROAD SYSTEMS.

At the present time three main railroad systems cross Montcalm county, namely, the Grand Trunk, the Grand Rapids & Indiana and the Pere Marquette.

The Grand Trunk lines in Montcalm county include that portion of the Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon Railway Company crossing the county and passing through Greenville, Sheridan and Carson City. Altogether, there are about twenty-five miles of main trackage. The Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon Railway Company, which was chartered January 25, 1886, under the laws of the state of Michigan, is controlled by the Grand Trunk through the ownership of its entire capital stock by the shareholders of the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada. The total length of the Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon, from Ashley to Muskegon, is 95.91 miles, but it also has trackage rights over the Ann Arbor railroad, from Ashley to Owosso Junction, a distance of 20.5 miles. The company owns one passenger car, two baggage cars, ten box and fourteen flat cars and five service cars. The capital stock of the road amounts to \$1,600,000 and the funded debt to \$1,662,000. In 1913 the road had an operating deficit of \$57,739.

In Montcalm county the Grand Trunk has a junction with the Howard City-Ionia branch of the Pere Marquette and also the Stanton-Greenville branch of the Pere Marquette at Greenville. At Sheridan it has a junction with the Stanton-Ionia branch of the Pere Marquette. Stations on the Grand Trunk in Montcalm county, beginning at the west line of the county and in order, are Greenville, Millers, Sheridan, Bushnell, Vickeryville, Butternut and Carson City.

GRAND RAPIDS & INDIANA RAILROAD.

The Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad, which extends from Richmond, Indiana, through Ft. Wayne, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids to Traverse City and beyond to Petoskey and Mackinaw City, passes through the extreme western part of Montcalm county with the stations of Pierson, Hiram, Maple Hill, Howard City and Reynolds, in Montcalm county. Howard City is the most important point on this railroad in Montcalm county.

The Grand Rapids & Indiana railway was opened from Ft. Wayne to Sturgis, Michigan, June 22, 1870; to Kalamazoo, September, 1870; to

Grand Rapids, October, 1870; from Grand Rapids to Cedar Springs, December 23, 1867; to Morley, June 21, 1869; to Paris, August 12, 1870; to Clam lake (Cadillac), December, 1871; to Fife Lake, September, 1872; to Petoskey, May, 1874.

The Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway Company is controlled by the Pennsylvania Railway Company, but is operated by its own organization. On December 31, 1912, the total mileage operated amounted to 577.73, including 421.75 miles owned, 148.48 miles operated and trackage rights of 7.5 miles. The mileage of the company in Montcalm county is 12.5. The present company was chartered in July, 1896, under the laws of Michigan and Indiana to take over the property of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad Company, which was sold under foreclosure of the second mortgage on June 10, 1896. The property was transferred to the new company on August 1, 1896. The present company owns practically the entire capital stock and all the income bonds of the Traverse City Railroad Company, and also owns a one-third interest in the Mackinaw Transportation Company. Furthermore, the company owns seventy-five thousand dollars of the bonds and twenty-five per cent. of the capital stock of the Traverse City, Leelanau & Manistique Railroad Company. For many years the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway Company was a one-sixth owner of the capital stock of the Mackinaw Island Hotel Company, but in 1909 this interest was sold for twenty-three acres of valuable land adjoining the hotel.

The capital stock of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway Company is \$5,791,700, of which the Pennsylvania Railway Company owns \$2,965,900. The funded debts amounts to \$10,125,000, but this does not include the capital and funded debt of underlying companies.

PERE MARQUETTE RAILROAD.

The Pere Marquette Railroad Company, which operates a greater mileage in Montcalm county than any other system, operates a line from Ionia to Howard City, where it connects with the Grand Rapids & Indiana, through Greenville, North Greenville, Gowen, Trufant and Coral, in Montcalm county; a line from Howard City to Saginaw, passing through Amble, Lakeview, Six Lakes, Edmore and Vestaburg; a line from Greenville, through Moeller and Sidney to Stanton, and the line from Haynor, just north of Ionia, through Fenwick, Sheridan, Colby, Stanton, McBride, Edmore and Wyman, in Montcalm county, to Big Rapids, in Mecosta county.

The Detroit & Howell Railroad Company and the Howell & Lansing

Railroad Company were first consolidated, forming the Detroit, Howell & Lansing Railroad Company. These companies were organized by local interests on the line between Detroit and Lansing, to construct a road connecting the above points. Local aid was secured and a large part of the road between Plymouth and Howell was graded, but no track laid. Entrance to the city of Detroit, with right of way down Fourth street and property on the corner of Fourth street and Grand River avenue for location of terminals was secured. Afterward the stock of the Detroit, Howell & Lansing road was purchased by the Hon. James F. Joy, then president of the Michigan Central railroad and his associates, and the main line was deflected to connect with that road at West Detroit; the right of way down Fourth street was abandoned and the property near the corner of Fourth and Grand River was sold.

OTHER RAILROAD COMPANIES.

The Ionia & Lansing Railroad Company was organized by Lansing, Ionia, Portland and other local districts along the line, and the road was constructed from Lansing to Ionia; opened in December, 1869, and extended to Greenville in September, 1870. The road was sold to James F. Joy and his associates in 1870, and consolidated with the Detroit, Howell & Lansing railroad in that year, forming the Detroit, Lansing & Lake Michigan Railroad Company. That part of the road from Detroit to Howard City, of the Detroit, Lansing & Lake Michigan railroad, except the part between Lansing and Greenville, was constructed in 1871, and opened for business in the month of August, that year.

The Ionia, Stanton & Northern Railroad Company, comprising the line from Ionia to Big Rapids, was organized in 1872 by parties in the interest of the Detroit, Lansing & Lake Michigan Railroad Company, and was subsequently consolidated with that company. The road was opened for business from Stanton Junction to Stanton in February, 1873, and was subsequently extended from time to time until 1880, when it was completed to Big Rapids. The Belding branch from Kiddville to Belding was built by local interests and acquired by the Lake Michigan road in 1876.

In 1875 the Detroit, Lansing & Lake Michigan Railroad Company defaulted in the payment of interest on its mortgage bonds, the trustees named in the mortgage took possession of the property under the terms of the mortgage, and, pending the reorganization, the property was operated by Hon. James F. Joy, as agent for the trustees. On December 26, 1876,

the purchasers of the road, under judicial sale, filed articles of association with the secretary of state at Lansing, Michigan, of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad Company. This company took over all the property, rights and franchises of the Detroit, Lansing & Lake Michigan Railroad Company.

The Saginaw Valley & St. Louis Railroad Company, from Saginaw to St. Louis, was constructed by Saginaw parties and opened from Paines Junction to St. Louis in January, 1873. The Saginaw Valley & St. Louis Railroad Company entered into a contract with the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad Company, and the Michigan Central Railroad Company, giving the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis Railroad Company perpetual rights over the road of the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad Company, between Flint and Pere Marquette crossing and Paines Junction, including the terminal facilities of the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad Company in Saginaw, on payment of the sum of \$40,000.

In 1879 all the stock of the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis Railroad Company, except a few shares which could not be located, was purchased by parties in the interest of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad Company, and the road was operated by the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad Company, but the accounts were kept distinct from the accounts of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad Company.

The Saginaw & Grand Rapids railroad from St. Louis to Alma was built by the stockholders of the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis railroad in March, 1879, as an extension of the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis railroad.

The Saginaw & Western railroad from St. Louis to Howard City has a typical history. The Chicago, Saginaw & Canada Railroad Company built the line from St. Louis to Cedar Lake in 1875. That road was placed in the hands of D. D. Erwin, as receiver, and by him leased to John A. Elwell, who extended the road to Lakeview in 1878 and 1879. In 1883 the road was sold under order of the court and was purchased by parties in the interest of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroad, and in August, 1876, was opened from Lakeview to Howard City, under the name of the Saginaw & Western Railroad Company. The branch from Greenville to Stanton was completed in 1901 and was built by Carland & Warner, of Toledo, Ohio.

Some years after the organization of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad Company, in 1876, the property of the company in Montcalm county was taken over by the Detroit, Grand Rapids & Western, and in

1899 it was consolidated with the Flint & Pere Marquette and became part of the Pere Marquette, under whose management it has since been operated.

PROPOSED TROLLEY LINES.

Several different trolley lines have been proposed through Montcalm county but so far none has been built. The people of the county have been extremely interested in these various projects and would undoubtedly support any enterprise of this kind in a very liberal way.

As early as May 31, 1901, the *Stanton Weekly Clipper* reprinted the following dispatch from Saginaw: "The project to connect Saginaw and Grand Rapids by means of an electric railway is now assured of success, the company having been incorporated with \$1,000,000 capital and the bonds having been taken by an eastern syndicate. The route will be from Grand Rapids to Greenville, thence to Stanton, Edmore, Alma and St. Louis. The line from Stanton to Grand Rapids will be built first, then the portion from Saginaw to Alma, and the intervening link will probably not be completed until next year. Work is already under way on the western portion of the road. It will be known as the Grand Rapids & Saginaw electric railroad. The company is incorporated under New Jersey laws, and will soon be incorporated in this state."

Although the building of this line seemed "assured," and although everything recited actually had been done, the road was never built and the enterprise still awaits the organizing genius of the *entrepreneur*.

More recently a movement has been started by the leading capitalists of Muskegon and Casnovia to build an electric road through Montcalm county. The route of the proposed trolley line passes through Casnovia, near White Fish lake, through Pierson, Trufant, Langston, Stanton, Crystal, Ithica, St. Charles and on to Saginaw. How soon this road will be built is a matter of speculation or guesswork in which one man's guess is as good as another. There can be no question of the pressing need of trolley service as an outlet for this splendid section of the state.

CHAPTER XXV.

MONTCALM COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

The state of Michigan furnished 90,048 troops for service in the Civil War, of which Montcalm county furnished approximately 640 troops of all classes. Of these 640 troops, 350 were credited to the county under the enrollment system and 287 enlisted prior to September 19, 1863.

From November 1, 1864, until the close of the war, there were 47 enlistments in the army from Montcalm county and 26 recruited from the draft during the same period. Of the 73 enlistments and drafts, subsequent to November 1, 1864, there were 70 for one year's service and 3 for three years' service. The total enrollment on December 31, 1864, from Montcalm county was 527 and the quota charged to Montcalm county in the call of December 19, 1864, was 80 troops.

The military census of September 10, 1862, showed that Montcalm county had returned 240 troops in June previously, under state law and that there were at that time 573 male persons living in Montcalm county between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, and therefore subject to draft.

During the entire war Montcalm county furnished troops to fifteen different regiments of infantry, including one reorganized regiment; eight regiments of cavalry; one regiment of colored troops; one regiment of United States sharpshooters; one regiment of engineers and mechanics, and one regiment of Michigan sharpshooters. By far the largest number of troops furnished any one regiment by Montcalm county was recruited by the Twenty-first regiment, the rolls of which credit 137 soldiers to Montcalm county.

THE TWENTY-FIRST INFANTRY.

The Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, was recruited from Barry, Ionia, Montcalm, Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Mason, Manistee, Grand Traverse, Leelanaw, Manitou, Osceola, Emmet, Mackinac, Delta and Cheboygan counties. The rendezvous of the regiment was at Ionia, recruiting having been begun on July 15, 1862. The regiment was mustered into the service of the United States on September

4, 1862. The regiment left its quarters at Ionia on September 12, 1862, in command of Colonel Stevens, 1,008 strong, under orders to report at Cincinnati. It was immediately rushed forward into Kentucky via Louisville and soon became actively engaged in the realities of the war. A beautiful silk flag was provided by the ladies of Ionia. This flag was carried through all the engagements of the regiment, brought back to the state, and at a celebration on July 4, 1865, was formally returned, on behalf of the regiment, to the ladies by the Hon. John Avery, of Greenville, the highest ranking officer of the regiment present, and was received on behalf of the ladies by the Hon. John B. Hutchins, of Ionia.

On October 8, 1862, the Twenty-first regiment bore an important part in the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, suffering a loss of 24 wounded, 1 mortally, and 3 missing, Colonel Stevens being among the wounded. The Twenty-first regiment participated in encounters with the enemy at Perryville, Kentucky, October 8, 1862; Lavergne, Tennessee, December 27, 1862; Stewart's Creek, Tennessee, December 29, 1862; Stone's River, Tennessee, December 29, 31, 1862, and January 1, 2, 3, 1863; Tullahoma, Tennessee, June 24, 1863; Elk River, Tennessee, July 1, 1863; Chickamauga, Tennessee, September 19, 20, 21, 1863; Chattanooga, Tennessee, October 6, 1863; Brown's Ferry, Tennessee, October 27, 1863; Missionary Ridge, Tennessee, November 26, 1863; Savannah, Georgia, December 11, 18, 20, 21, 1864; Aversyboro, North Carolina, March 16, 1865; Bentonville, North Carolina, March 19, 1865.

The final reports of the regiment showed that it had a total membership of 1,477 officers and men, while its losses were 1 officer and 40 men killed in action, 2 officers and 31 men died of wounds, and 3 officers and 291 men died of disease—a total of 3,368.

THE EIGHTH INFANTRY.

The Eighth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, to which Montcalm county furnished a little less than fifty men, was ordered to rendezvous at Grand Rapids, August 21, 1861, and after being ordered to Ft. Wayne was mustered into the service of the United States on September 23, 1861. The regiment participated in the second battle of Bull Run, Antietam, Fredricksburg, the campaign around Richmond and the capture of Petersburg.

There were approximately sixty enlistments from Montcalm county in the Tenth Michigan Cavalry, the rendezvous of which was at Grand Rapids. The regiment was raised under the direction of Col. Thaddeus Foote, of the

Sixth Michigan Cavalry. Recruiting began on July 4, 1863, and the regiment was mustered into the service of the United States on November 18, 1863, having on its rolls 912 officers and men.

The regiment left its rendezvous on December 1, 1863, in command of Colonel Foote, under orders to proceed to the field in Kentucky, via Cincinnati to Lexington, where it remained until January 25, 1864, when it moved to Burnside Point, having engaged the enemy at House Mountain. Other engagements and skirmishes of the regiment were: Bean's Gap, Tennessee, March 26, 1864; Rheatown, March 24; Jonesboro, March 25; Johnsonville, March 25; Watauga, March 25; Powder Spring Gap, April 28; Dandridge, May 19; Greenville, May 30; White Horn, May 31; Morristown, June 2; Bean's Station, June 16; Rogersville, June 17; Kingsport, June 18; Can Branch, June 20; New Market, June 21; Moseburg, June 28; William's Ford, June 25; Dutch Bottom, June 28; Sevierville, July 5; Newport, July 8; Morristown, August 3; Greenville, August 4; Mossy Creek, August 18; Bull's Gap, August 21; Blue Spring, August 23; Greenville, August 23; Strawberry Plains, August 24; Flat Creek, August 24; Rogersville, August 27; Bull's Gap, August 29; Greenville, September 4; Sweet Water, September 10; Thorn Hill, September 10; Seiverville, September 18; Jonesboro, September 30; Johnson Station, October 1; Watauga Bridge, October 1-2; Chucky Bend, October 10; Newport, October 18; Irish Bottoms, October 25; Madisonville, October 30; Morristown, November 20; Strawberry Plains, November 23-24; Kingsport, December 12; Bristol, December 14; Saltville, Virginia, December 20; Chucky Bend, January 10, 1865; Brabson's Mills, March 25; Boonville, North Carolina, March 27; Henry Court House, April 8; Abbott Creek, April 10; High Point, April 10; Statesville, April 14; Newton, April 17, 1865.

MONTCALM SOLDIERS IN OTHER REGIMENTS.

The Tenth Cavalry had while in service a membership of 2,050 officers and men, and its losses were 271, of whom 2 officers and 18 men were killed in action, 11 men died of wounds and 240 of disease.

The First Engineers and Mechanics, which included forty-three men from Montcalm county, was mustered in at Marshall, October 29, 1861, and was mustered out at Nashville, Tennessee, September 22, 1865.

The Second Infantry, which included four men from Montcalm, was mustered into the service at Detroit, May 25, 1861, and mustered out at Delaney House, D. C., July 28, 1865.

The Third Infantry, which included twelve men from Montcalm, was mustered into the service at Grand Rapids, July 10, 1861, and mustered out at Detroit, June 20, 1864.

The Third Reorganized Infantry was mustered into the service at Grand Rapids, October 15, 1864, and mustered out of service at Victoria, Texas, May 25, 1866. It included fourteen men from Montcalm.

The Ninth Infantry, which included five men from Montcalm county, was mustered into service at Detroit, October 15, 1861, and mustered out at Nashville, September 15, 1865.

The Fifteenth Infantry, which included nine men from Montcalm county, was mustered into service at Monroe, March 20, 1862, and mustered out of service at Little Rock, Arkansas, August 13, 1865.

The Sixteenth Infantry, which included seventeen men from Montcalm county, was mustered into service at Detroit, September 8, 1861, and mustered out of service at Jeffersonville, Indiana, July 8, 1865.

The Twenty-seventh Infantry was mustered into service April 10, 1863, at Ypsilanti, and mustered out of service at Delaney House, D. C., July 26, 1865. It had three men from Montcalm county.

The First Cavalry, which included four men from Montcalm county, was mustered into service on September 13, 1861, at Detroit, and mustered out of service on March 10, 1866, at Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Second Cavalry, which included nine men from Montcalm county, was mustered into service on October 2, 1861, at Grand Rapids, and mustered out of service at Macon, Georgia, August 17, 1865.

The Third Cavalry, which included six men from Montcalm, was mustered into service on November 1, 1861, at Grand Rapids, and mustered out of service at San Antonio, Texas, February 12, 1865.

The Fourth Cavalry, including one man from Montcalm, was mustered into service on August 20, 1862, at Detroit, and mustered out of service on July 1, 1865, at Nashville, Tennessee.

The Fifth Cavalry, including at least one man from Montcalm, was mustered into service on August 30, 1862, at Detroit, and mustered out of service on June 22, 1865, at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

The Sixth Cavalry, including six men from Montcalm county, was mustered into service on October 13, 1862, at Detroit, and mustered out of service on November 24, 1865, at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

The Seventh Cavalry, including three men from Montcalm county, was mustered into service on January 16, 1863, at Grand Rapids, and mustered out of service on December 15, 1865, at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

The Fifth Infantry was mustered into service on August 28, 1861, at Detroit, and mustered out of service on July 5, 1865, at Jeffersonville, Indiana. It included one man from Montcalm county.

The Tenth Infantry, including three men from Montcalm, was mustered into service on February 6, 1862, at Flint, and mustered out of service on July 19, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky.

The Twelfth Infantry was mustered into service on March 5, 1862, at Niles, and mustered out of service on February 15, 1866, at Camden, Arkansas. It included four men from Montcalm county.

The Thirteenth Infantry, including five men from Montcalm county, was mustered into service on January 17, 1862, at Kalamazoo, and mustered out of service on July 25, 1865.

The Fourteenth Infantry, including fourteen men from Montcalm county, was mustered into service on February 13, 1862, at Ypsilanti, and mustered out of service on July 18, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky.

The Twenty-sixth Infantry, including one man from Montcalm county, was mustered into service on December 12, 1862, at Jackson, and mustered out of service on July 4, 1865, at Alexandria, Virginia.

There were also two men from Montcalm county in the One Hundred and Second United States Colored Infantry.

The following roll of Montcalm county is far from complete, since it gives only a little more than 400 of the approximately 640 soldiers accredited to Montcalm county during the war. There are probably errors in the roll as it now stands. Many are unaccounted for, inasmuch as they enlisted in adjoining counties and were accredited to the counties where they enlisted.

The following is the roll:

SECOND INFANTRY.

Company B—George W. Yaner, mustered out at expiration of service, June 6, 1864.

Company C—Daniel B. Converse, mustered out, July 28, 1865; Andrew S. Phillips, mustered out, June 12, 1865.

Company K—Alfred R. Isham, discharged by order, May 3, 1865.

THIRD INFANTRY—FIRST TERM.

Company A—James K. Fisher, discharged at end of service, June 10, 1864.

Company C—Jacob Weaver, veteranized, December 23, 1863, mustered out, July 5, 1865.

Company D—Ezra Stuart, discharged at end of service, June 16, 1864.

Company E—George Butterworth, veteranized, December 23, 1863, mustered out, July 5, 1865; Dwight Towsley, veteranized, December 23, 1863; Buel Towsley, discharged for disability; Edwin Van Wert, dropped from rolls while prisoner of war; Stephen G. Wheaton, mustered out, August 4, 1865.

Company F—Edwin M. Blair, discharged for disability, July 30, 1861; John J. Lacy, discharged for disability, July 30, 1861; Congon Olcott, transferred to Fifth Infantry.

Company K—Sidney Fox, died of disease at Fortress Monroe, October 20, 1862.

THIRD INFANTRY—NEW REGIMENT.

Company B—Robert S. Buchanan, mustered out, May 19, 1865; James Chamberlain, discharged at end of service, February 23, 1866; Ripley Hodge, mustered out, August 16, 1865; Andrew W. Main, mustered out, August 25, 1865; William N. Main, mustered out, May 25, 1866; John Peck, mustered out, May 25, 1866.

Company C—Schuyler Aldrich, died of disease at Victoria, Texas, May 17, 1866; Smith C. Bell, mustered out, February 27, 1866; Thomas D. Davis, mustered out, May 25, 1866; Benjamin S. Everest, mustered out, September 5, 1865.

Company D—George Verder, mustered out, May 25, 1866.

Company F—Henry Arntz, mustered out, July 31, 1865; Silas Dickerson, mustered out, May 25, 1866; Hiram Turrell, mustered out, June 18, 1865.

EIGHTH INFANTRY.

Company C—Constantine Schlappi, mustered out, July 30, 1865.

Company D—John Egbert, mustered out, July 30, 1865.

Company E—Dias H. Grow, discharged for disability, July 22, 1862; Charles Hubbs, discharged for wounds, May 18, 1865; John R. Holcomb, died of disease near Petersburg, Virginia, July 2, 1864; Samuel Hubbs, mustered out, July 30, 1865; William Judd, discharged at end of service, September 22, 1864; George W. Light, veteranized, January 15, 1864; Henry H. Peck, died in action at Petersburg, Virginia, June 3, 1864; Aaron Shawl, died in action at Cold Harbor, Virginia, June 3, 1864; Henry C.

Smith, died of disease at Washington, July 31, 1864; Charles D. Spencer, discharged at end of service, October 27, 1862.

Company F—Charles C. Harvey, died near Petersburg, Virginia, June 23, 1864; Q. M. Serg. Gilmore H. Noble, mustered out, July 30, 1865.

Company G—First Lieut. George A. Wells, Greenville; commissioned, June 17, 1864; second lieutenant Company A, August 15, 1863; mustered out, July 30, 1864.

Company H—First Lieut. Austin W. Green, Greenville; enlisted as sergeant, September 1, 1861; promoted second lieutenant, January 1, 1863; promoted captain Company F, June 3, 1864; resigned, July 25, 1864. Serg. Decatur O. Blake, discharged, October 24, 1862; Serg. William R. Collier, discharged at end of service, September 27, 1864; Serg. Marsena A. Newbury, veteranized, December 29, 1863, mustered out, July 30, 1865; Serg. Joshua H. Noah, discharged, October 24, 1862; William E. Byswater, discharged at end of service, September 22, 1864; Robert B. Bouer, transferred to Company I, October 1, 1861; William E. Barton, died of wounds at Alexandria, September 16, 1862; James H. Barton, died in action at Wilmington Island, Georgia, April 16, 1862; Nelson Cross, died at New York of wounds, July 14, 1862; Charles Cross, discharged for disability, October 24, 1862; John Douglass, discharged at end of service, September 22, 1864; John Davis, veteranized, January 15, 1864; Henry Dryer, died of wounds at Washington, D. C., June 11, 1864; Elijah H. Fisher, discharged to enlist in regular service, December 31, 1862; William Lampman, discharged for disability, December 28, 1861; Andrew McOmber, discharged for disability, November 27, 1862; George Meginley, discharged at end of service, September 22, 1864; Orange P. Noah, discharged for disability, October 24, 1862; James Parkill, discharged for disability, October 11, 1862; Herman Rossman, veteranized, February 17, 1864, mustered out, July 30, 1865; Albert Rolla, veteranized, December 29, 1863, died of wounds at Fredericksburg, Virginia, May 12, 1864; Octavius Skey, discharged for disability, March 27, 1862; Reuben D. Smith, discharged for disability, October 24, 1862; William Shields, discharged for disability, July 9, 1862; Asa Smith, mustered out, July 20, 1865; Richard W. Vaness, discharged for disability, October 24, 1862; Charles P. Wilcox, died of disease at Camp Denison, Ohio, October 10, 1863; John Zimmerman, discharged by order, June 1, 1865.

NINTH INFANTRY.

Company D—Melvin C. Bacon, died of disease at Nashville, Tennessee, September 27, 1862; Alexander M. Bennett, mustered out, September 15, 1865; George Edwards, died of disease at Nashville, Tennessee, May 21, 1865; George Olmstead, mustered out, September 15, 1865; George W. Smith, mustered out, September 15, 1865.

FIFTEENTH INFANTRY.

Company C—Samuel W. Allen, mustered out, August 13, 1865.

Company B—George H. Peters, discharged by order, May 30, 1865.

Company F—John Barber, discharged by order, July 5, 1865; Fordice L. Blake, mustered out, August 13, 1865; Reuben Depue, died of disease at Evansville, Indiana, June 7, 1862; Emanuel Hesseng, discharged by order, June 29, 1868.

Company G—Jacob Beard, discharged by order, May 30, 1865; James Eldridge, discharged by order, May 30, 1865; Benjamin I. Wilber, mustered out, July 28, 1865.

SIXTEENTH INFANTRY.

Company B—Sylvester Barrett, died near Petersburg, Virginia, June 18, 1864; Michael Chittock, died in action at Bull Run, Virginia, August 30, 1862; Cyrus W. Dickerson, veteranized, December 22, 1863, mustered out, July 8, 1865; John W. Howarth, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, January 15, 1864; Thomas Patterson, veteranized, December 22, 1863, discharged for disability, January 19, 1865; George Simonson, veteranized, December 22, 1863, discharged by order, June 29, 1865; Wallace N. St. Clair, mustered out, July 8, 1865; William B. Ward, died of wounds at Washington, D. C., June 7, 1864; Roland S. Comstock, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, March 16, 1864; Benjamin Comstock, discharged by order, June 20, 1863.

Company D—Albert S. Cowden, mustered out, July 8, 1865; John Winters, mustered out, July 8, 1865.

Company E—John Brown, mustered out, July 8, 1865; Pulaski Frost, died of disease in Virginia, July 10, 1865.

Company H—Charles Deland, mustered out, July 8, 1865; Henry
(19)

Decker, died of disease at Washington, D. C., September 30, 1861; Nathaniel B. Overton, died in action at Gaines' Mill, June 27, 1862.

Company I—William Davis, discharged by order, May 30, 1865; Peter Kleis, mustered out, July 8, 1865.

TWENTY-FIRST INFANTRY.

Field and Staff—First Lieut. and Q. M. Martin P. Follett, Fairplain; commissioned, July 29, 1862; resigned, December 14, 1863.

Company A—George W. Carter, mustered out, July 18, 1865; Thomas J. Hall, died of disease at Naval School Hospital, Annapolis, Maryland, February 21, 1863; William Hodges, discharged for disability, May 15, 1864; William P. Lunn, mustered out, June 8, 1864; Jacob Lunn, mustered out, June 8, 1865; John Little, Jr., mustered out, June 8, 1865; Serg. Carlos D. Loring, mustered out, June 8, 1865; Harvey Noyes, died of disease at Gallatin, Tennessee, February 15, 1863; Samuel J. Noyes, discharged for disability, February 15, 1863; George B. Tyler, discharged for disability, March 19, 1863.

Company C—Second Lieut. Newell J. Pratt, Greenville, commissioned, July 11, 1864; mustered out, June 8, 1865. Second Lieut. James A. Knight, Greenville, commissioned, August 14, 1862; resigned, February 13, 1863.

Company D—Cyrus Abbott, died of disease at Savannah, Georgia, February 4, 1865; George W. Conant, died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, April 7, 1863; Elijah Carr, discharged for disability, April 24, 1863; Reuben Crutsley, mustered out, June 24, 1865; Ira Decker, died of disease, Nashville, Tennessee, December 21, 1862; Henry M. Ferns, mustered out, June 8, 1865; Lewis P. Fuller, discharged for disability, May 4, 1864; Lucius E. Griffith, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps; Asahel Hale, discharged for disability, March 25, 1863; William Joslin, died of disease near Clear Lake, Michigan, February 22, 1865; Philetus Kuhn, discharged for disability, August 22, 1863; Theodore Lampman, mustered out, June 14, 1865; Michael McCabe, mustered out, May 29, 1865; John H. Miller, discharged for disability, January 5, 1863; William Noah, mustered out, June 8, 1863; Morie Osman, mustered out, June 8, 1865; Theodore Reynolds, died of disease at Chattanooga, Tennessee, January 16, 1865; George W. Swigar, died of disease at Louisville, Kentucky, November 10, 1862; Emanuel Sanderson, mustered out, June 15, 1865; William H. Smith, mustered out, June 15, 1865; Ira Stewart, veteranized, January 16, 1864; Henry

Tripp, mustered out, June 8, 1865; Henry C. Worden, discharged for disability, February 26, 1863.

Company F—Capt. Elijah H. Crowell, Greenville; commissioned, July 18, 1862; promoted to colonel, November 14, 1864; mustered out as captain, June 8, 1865. First Lieut. Robert Mooney, Greenville; commissioned, July 30, 1862; resigned, December 1, 1862. First Lieut. Eben R. Ellenwood, Winfield; commissioned, December 1, 1862; resigned, January 31, 1863. Second Lieut. Eben R. Ellenwood, Winfield; commissioned, July 30, 1862; promoted to first lieutenant, December 1, 1862. Second Lieut. John F. Loase, Eureka; commissioned, December 1, 1863; mustered out, June 21, 1865. Serg. Enoch R. Wilcox, Eureka, discharged for disability, February 28, 1863. Serg. Leonard Rossman, Winfield; mustered out, June 8, 1865. Serg. Thomas J. Potter, Eureka; mustered out, June 8, 1865. Serg. Newell J. Pratt, Greenville; promoted to commissary sergeant, May 1, 1864. Serg. William Kent, Fairplain; killed in action in North Carolina, May 19, 1865. Corp. John N. Woodworth, Eureka; died at Nashville in 1862. Corp. John F. Loase, Eureka; promoted to second lieutenant. Corp. John H. French, Cato; died at Detroit, May 30, 1865. Corp. Byron W. Moore, Eureka; mustered out, July 8, 1865. Corp. Reuben W. Smead, Winfield; killed on Mississippi river. Musician Phineas Swift, Fairplain; discharged for disability, April 9, 1863. William J. Allen, mustered out, July 18, 1865; James R. Briggs, mustered out, May 22, 1865; Frederick Brant, mustered out, July 6, 1865; John G. Brimmer, mustered out, June 8, 1865; John S. Butler, died of disease at Nashville, Tennessee, December 9, 1863; Francis Borden, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, January 15, 1864, mustered out, July 5, 1865; Henry Barden, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, August 12, 1864; George W. Cole, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, May 1, 1864; George S. Chandler, mustered out, July 18, 1865; Reuben S. Cowden, mustered out, June 8, 1865; Jacob Davis, mustered out, June 8, 1865; Francis Darland, mustered out, June 8, 1865; Johanna De Bree, discharged for disability, February 8, 1863; Lafayette Foskett, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps; George Flake, mustered out, July 18, 1865; Benjamin Fordyce, mustered out, June 27, 1865; Enos H. Goble, discharged for disability, February 14, 1863; Richard H. Gibson, discharged for wounds, April 6, 1864; Jasper E. Giles, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, January 15, 1864; David Gristwood, mustered out, July 18, 1865; Hiram Gibson, mustered out, June 16, 1865; George Hall, mustered out, July 18, 1865; John Hunter, mustered out, July 18, 1865;

John House, mustered out, June 5, 1865; Henry Herrick, died of disease at Nashville, Tennessee, November 14, 1862; Henry H. Hamilton, died in action at Chickamauga, Tennessee, September 20, 1863; John A. Harris, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, January 15, 1864; George O. Holinder, discharged for disability, December 4, 1863; Christenson Johnson, died in action at Stone's River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862; Dallas Jenks, mustered out, July 18, 1865; C. C. Johnson, mustered out, July 18, 1865; Daniel Judd, mustered out, June 8, 1865; Jesse Kenosen, died of disease at Andersonville, Georgia, October 1, 1864; George W. Keeler, discharged by order, May 11, 1865; George Lamberton, died in action at Bentonville, North Carolina, March 19, 1865; William Lamberton, mustered out, July 18, 1865; William Lampman, mustered out, August 9, 1865; Oliver Miles, Jr., mustered out, July 14, 1865; Charles H. Meil, mustered out, June 8, 1865; Levi M. McOmber, died of disease at Louisville, Kentucky, December 6, 1862; **George Mead**, killed by explosion of steamer "Sultana," April 28, 1865; Martin McDonald, discharged for disability, January 22, 1863; Chauncey H. Peck, died of wounds at Chattanooga, Tennessee, September 29, 1863; Nathaniel Pratt, died of disease at Chattanooga, Tennessee, November 18, 1864; James N. Powell, mustered out, July 18, 1865; Daniel B. Rust, discharged by order, April 10, 1863; Lewis Ruch, discharged for disability, January 1, 1863; Seth B. Smith, discharged for disability, March 15, 1863; Ellsworth Smith, discharged for disability, February 10, 1863; Ritner Skinner, discharged for wounds, April 6, 1864; Rensselaer W. Skinner, died of disease at Gallatin, Tennessee, February 9, 1863; James R. Squires, mustered out, July 18, 1865; Henry Strobe, mustered out, July 18, 1865; Andrew Swift, mustered out, July 18, 1865; Daniel S. Severy, mustered out, June 8, 1865; ——— Swarthout, mustered out, June 8, 1865; Edward Straley, mustered out, June 8, 1865; William Swift, mustered out, June 5, 1865; John B. Thompson, mustered out, June 8, 1865; Buel Towsley, discharged for disability, December 29, 1863; Charles M. Tuttle, discharged for disability, November 11, 1862; Garrett T. Van Allen, discharged; Anthony Van Stee, died of wounds at Goldsboro, North Carolina, March 28, 1865; Jephtha Van Wormer, mustered out, July 18, 1865; Theodore Wakeman, mustered out, July 18, 1865; John C. Wolverton, mustered out, June 8, 1865; Oscar Weed, mustered out, June 5, 1865; Enoch Wilcox, discharged for disability, February 28, 1863.

Company H—William R. Foote, discharged for disability, May 1, 1863.

Company I—John M. Bevard, mustered out, July 10, 1865; James Car-

penter, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps; Burton Koop, died of wounds at Newbern, North Carolina, April 24, 1865.

Company K—Samuel Andrews, discharged by order, July 23, 1863; Samuel Andrews, Jr., transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, January 15, 1864, mustered out, July 8, 1865; Corp. Julius T. Barrett, died in action at Stone's River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862; Hiram Barrett, discharged, May 18, 1863; L. M. Carpenter, mustered out, June 6, 1865; James Carpenter, mustered out, July 18, 1865; William H. Everest, discharged for disability, May 11, 1865; George W. Gregory, died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, December 20, 1863; Sanford Himes, died of disease at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, June 27, 1864; Corydon L. Hunt, discharged for disability, May 11, 1865; M. M. Proctor, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, April 30, 1864, mustered out, June 30, 1865; Simeon Proctor, mustered out, June 16, 1865; Ebenezer B. Shay, died of disease at Nashville, Tennessee, November 6, 1862; Nathaniel Ward, died of disease at Nashville, Tennessee, November 20, 1862.

TWENTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY.

Company A—William F. Hall, mustered out, July 26, 1865.

Company E—Alfred R. Isham, mustered out, July 26, 1865.

Company F—Lamson N. Isham, mustered out, July 26, 1865.

FIRST ENGINEERS AND MECHANICS.

Company A.—Moses Burnett discharged by order, June 6, 1865; Bradford C. Davis, discharged by order, June 6, 1865; Ira D. Elsworth, discharged by order, June 6, 1865; Boughton Goodsell, discharged for disability, May 11, 1865; Henry Kent, discharged by order, June 6, 1865; Albert W. Lobdell, discharged by order, June 21, 1865; Nelson J. McIntosh, discharged by order, June 6, 1865; Wesley H. Philips, died of disease at Duncan's Bridge, South Carolina, February 16, 1865; Elisha Robertham, discharged by order, June 6, 1865; Jacob M. Swarthout, discharged by order, June 6, 1865; Azariah Soule, discharged by order, July 21, 1865; Arnold W. Terry, mustered out, September 22, 1865; Cornelius Vanstee, discharged by order, June 1, 1865.

Company B.—Allen Barnes, discharged by order, June 6, 1865; Augustus Collfren, died of disease at Savannah, Georgia, January 28, 1865; Saterlee Solon, died of disease at Chattanooga, Tennessee, February 29, 1864;

Newell Slawson, discharged at end of service, October 31, 1864; Henry S. Sanford, discharged by order, July 7, 1865; Isaac Underwood, discharged for disability, June 20, 1865.

Company D—Charles Macomber, discharged at end of service, October 31, 1864.

Company E—Serg. Samuel M. Waters, Montcalm; discharged at end of service, October 31, 1864. Martin V. Feagle, discharged at end of service, October 31, 1864; John Nichols, discharged for disability, July 28, 1862; Frederick Roemyk, discharged at end of service, October 31, 1864; Daniel F. Spencer, discharged at end of service, October 31, 1864; John V. Voorhie, discharged at end of service, October 31, 1864; Samuel M. Waters, discharged at end of service, October 31, 1864; Jason Westover, discharged at end of service, October 21, 1864; Sylvester Wells, discharged at end of service, October 31, 1864.

Company F—William Comstock, mustered out, September 22, 1865; Elijah Comstock, mustered out, September 22, 1865; James Hosmer, mustered out, September 22, 1865; Samuel E. Owen, discharged by order, May 9, 1865; Lewis H. Ransome, died of disease at Savannah, Georgia, January 11, 1865.

Company G—Frederick Grovenberg, discharged by order, June 19, 1865.

Company K—Robert F. Williams, mustered out, September 22, 1865.

Company L—Freeman Brown, discharged by order, May 23, 1865; Leander Rosecrans, discharged by order, May 18, 1865; Richard Smith, discharged by order, June 6, 1865; Asa Sinclair, discharged by order, August 4, 1865; Alvin S. Watson, discharged by order, June 6, 1865; Robert G. Young, discharged by order, June 6, 1865.

Company M—William Wiggins, died of disease at Bridgeport, Alabama, March 10, 1864.

FIRST UNITED STATES SHARPSHOOTERS.

Company C—Alvin Smith, died in action at Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 2, 1863.

Company I—Joshua Rogert, died of disease at Washington, D. C.; Orrin Knapp, died of disease at Washington, D. C., March 11, 1862; Lorenzo O. Smith, died of disease at Washington, D. C., March 25, 1862.

FIRST CAVALRY.

Company F—Silas Berk, died of disease at New Market, Virginia; William H. Costello, discharged by order, June 15, 1865.

Company H—Wallace R. Page, mustered out, March 25, 1866.

Company K—William H. Woodard, died of disease at Fort Leavenworth, October 8, 1868.

SECOND CAVALRY.

Company C—Eben R. Delano, died of disease at Nashville, Tennessee, July 14, 1864.

Company F—Charles Barnum, discharged for disability, July 16, 1862; John C. Burgess, veteranized, January 5, 1863, mustered out, August 17, 1865; George Corbin, discharged for disability; Dwight F. Devendorff, discharged for disability; Emerson H. Gallea, discharged for disability, December 27, 1862; George Rossman, discharged for disability, April 3, 1864; Henry B. Williams, discharged for disability, December 27, 1862.

Company L—William S. Striker, mustered out, August 17, 1865.

THIRD CAVALRY.

Company D—Edwin A. Berry, discharged for disability; James H. Hamilton, discharged at end of service, October 24, 1864; David T. Johnson, veteranized, January 19, 1864, mustered out, February 12, 1866; William H. Staley, veteranized, January 19, 1864, mustered out, September 23, 1865; Squire W. Wheeler, discharged for disability, October 13, 1862.

Company I—Richard L. Merritt, died of disease at Lagrange, July 1, 1862.

SIXTH CAVALRY.

Company D—William S. Smith, discharged for disability, August 1, 1863.

Company E—Thomas Dickenson, died of disease at hospital in Maryland, March 8, 1865; John J. Hammel, mustered out, November 24, 1865; William Phinsey, mustered out, May 15, 1865.

Company G—Enoch J. King, mustered out, February 16, 1866.

Company K—William H. Woodward, died of disease at Fort Leavenworth, October 8, 1865.

TENTH CAVALRY.

Field and Staff—Maj. Harvey E. Light, Eureka; captain of Company M, July 25, 1863; commissioned major, January 1, 1865; mustered out, November 11, 1865. Asst. Serg. William D. Scott, Greenville; commissioned, July 7, 1863; mustered out, November 11, 1865.

Company A—Jacob Orman, mustered out, November 11, 1865; John J. Riley, discharged for disability, December 26, 1864.

Company B—First Lieut. Nelson Robinson, Eureka; commissioned, August 3, 1865; mustered out, November 11, 1865. John Arntz, discharged, December 1, 1863; Robert Carr, mustered out, November 11, 1865.

Company C—Thomas E. Dunn, mustered out, November 11, 1865; Nathan Nichols, mustered out, November 11, 1865.

Company D—Ovid Harris, Jr., discharged by order, June 17, 1865; Ira E. Harvey, killed at Marlinsville, Virginia, April 8, 1865; William H. Printler, discharged by order, August 22, 1865; Thomas Snow, discharged by order, June 17, 1865; J. F. Thornell, discharged by order, June 17, 1865.

Company E—Capt. Harvey E. Light, Eureka; commissioned, August 10, 1863; promoted to major, January 1, 1865. Second Lieut. Nelson Robinson, Jr., Eureka; entered service, August 29, 1863 as sergeant Tenth Cavalry; commissioned, January 6, 1865; promoted to first lieutenant Company B, August 3, 1865; mustered out, November 11, 1865. First Serg. Emery J. Blading, Winfield; enlisted, August 23, 1863, as sergeant Company E, Tenth Cavalry; promoted to second lieutenant Company F, September 2, 1865; mustered out, November 11, 1865. Serg. William R. Fort, Winfield; enlisted, August 31, 1863; mustered out, November 11, 1865. Serg. Johnson B. Reed, Pierson; enlisted, August 31, 1863; mustered out, November 11, 1865. Corp. Henry V. Darling, Evergreen; enlisted, August 18, 1863; mustered out, October 20, 1865. Corp. Edwin A. Berry, Fairplain; enlisted, September 8, 1863; died of disease in Kentucky, February 16, 1864. Farrier Alfred V. Roosa, Eureka; enlisted, October 20, 1863; mustered out, November 11, 1865. Wagoner Levi Spaulding, Eureka; enlisted, August 25, 1863; discharged for disability, April 26, 1864. Alfred Almy, discharged by order, September 11, 1865; Anson Buck, discharged by order, February 20, 1865; Lewis Bighone, mustered out, November 11, 1865; Charles Barnum, mustered out, November 11, 1865; Caleb Barnes, mus-

tered out, November 11, 1865; John H. Clark, mustered out, November 11, 1865; Elijah Carr, mustered out, November 11, 1865; James E. Douglass, mustered out, May 18, 1865; James N. Furguson, mustered out, November 11, 1865; Thomas Gorman, discharged by order, June 17, 1865; Orrin Hubbard, discharged by order, June 4, 1865; Benjamin Hewitt, mustered out, November 11, 1865; Churchill Killburn, discharged by order, June 17, 1865; Charles M. Moon, discharged by order, June 17, 1865; Eugene F. McMilan, died of disease at Camp Nelson, Kentucky, January 23, 1863; Alexander McKelvey, died of disease at Knoxville, Tennessee, June 25, 1864; Jerome Poulter, mustered out, November 23, 1865; George H. Rose, discharged by order, June 29, 1865; Braddock Sflow, discharged by order, June 29, 1865; William H. Sager, died of disease at Knoxville, Tennessee, June 25, 1864; Geradus Smith, died of disease at Detroit, Michigan, February 8, 1865; Demas Satterlee, mustered out, November 11, 1865; Urias Stout, mustered out, November 11, 1865; Stephen Skeels, mustered out, November 11, 1865; George B. Wheeler, mustered out, November 11, 1865.

Company F—Second Lieut. Emory J. Blaiding, Greenville; commissioned, September 2, 1865; mustered out, November 11, 1865 Samuel Spencer, mustered out, October 4, 1865.

Company G—Henry A. Allen, discharged for disability; Samuel B. Carpenter, mustered out, November 11, 1865; Henry H. French, mustered out, November 11, 1865; James M. Orcutt, mustered out, May 27, 1865; Oliver Price, mustered out, September 1, 1865; Jackson Riker, mustered out, November 11, 1865; Daniel E. Stokes, mustered out, November 11, 1865; Buel Towley, mustered out, November 11, 1865.

Company H—John Decker, died of disease at Grand Rapids, Michigan, December 12, 1863.

Company I—Jonathan T. Gorton, died of disease at Camp Nelson, Kentucky, February 11, 1864; Delos Pierce, died of disease at Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 23, 1863.

Company M—William Jones, mustered out, November 11, 1865; Stephen Sharpe, discharged, April 14, 1865; Daniel Shook, discharged by order, August 30, 1865.

FIFTH INFANTRY.

Company E—Homer C. Munson, dropped from rolls while prisoner of war.

TENTH INFANTRY.

Company A—Charles Best, mustered out, July 19, 1865.

Company C—Jerome Hilliker, mustered out, July 19, 1865.

Company E—James Walker, mustered out, July 19, 1865.

TWELFTH INFANTRY.

Company D—Thomas Bennett, discharged by order, October 13, 1865; Solomon Sherwood, discharged by order, October 13, 1865.

Company E—Merritt Halleck, discharged by order, October 13, 1865.

Company F—John B. Wetherly, discharged at end of service, September 9, 1865.

THIRTEENTH INFANTRY.

Company D—Kirk Wewallen, discharged by order, June 1, 1865.

Company F—Oscar P. Benett, died in action at Chickamauga, Tennessee, September 19, 1863; Andrew Little, veteranized, January 18, 1864, mustered out, July 25, 1865; Augustus Wiser, veteranized, January 18, 1864, discharged by order, August 1, 1865.

Company G—Lora C. Jenks, veteranized, January 18, 1865, mustered out, February 25, 1865.

FOURTEENTH INFANTRY.

Company A—Francis Strong, mustered out, July 18, 1865; Abraham Van Horn, mustered out, July 18, 1865.

Company B—Abiah Johns, discharged by order, June 1, 1865; Nathan B. Scott, mustered out, July 18, 1865.

Company C—David Borgen, mustered out, July 18, 1865.

Company D—Henry Bump, died of disease at Fort Schuyler, New York, January 11, 1865.

Company E—Albert Washburn, mustered out, June 15, 1865.

Company F—John Fields, mustered out, July 18, 1865; Horatio Kibby, discharged for disability, July 1, 1862; Lewis J. Moore, mustered out, July 18, 1865; Daniel Youngs, died of disease at Willet's Island, (New York Harbor), May 23, 1865.

Company H—James P. Neve, mustered out, July 18, 1865.

Company I—Robert Jenks mustered out, July 18, 1865; Luther Jenks, mustered out, July 18, 1865.

TWENTY-SIXTH INFANTRY.

Company D—Emanuel Hissing, discharged for disability, August 8, 1863.

FIRST MICHIGAN SHARPSHOOTERS.

Company H—James Rhineholt, died of disease at Andersonville, Georgia, September 8, 1864.

ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND UNITED STATES COLORED INFANTRY.

Company E—Jeremiah Read, died of disease, September 29, 1865; Elijah Read, died of disease at Orangeburg, South Carolina, June 27, 1865.

FOURTH CAVALRY.

Company A—Alexander C. Leman, died of disease at Nashville, Tennessee, November 27, 1863.

FIFTH CAVALRY.

Company A—Edwin A. Wheaton, mustered out, June 22, 1865.

SEVENTH CAVALRY.

Company D—Stephen Aldrich, mustered out, July 10, 1865; David Turner, died of disease at Frederick, Maryland, December 22, 1864.

Company E—Francis F. Hawkins, mustered out, July 22, 1865.

CHAPTER XXVI.

EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

The educational chapter of any community begins approximately at the same time as that of the settlement of the community. This is true in practically every instance in the settlement of a new county. Our pioneers, although not having the facilities with which to acquire education, were very eager that their offspring should not be handicapped in this way. With the beginning of each settlement as soon as there were as many as from seven to twelve or fifteen children, a small school house was either erected or school was kept in private families. The early school history of Montcalm county demands more than a meager description of the early log school house and the surroundings which at that time were part of the educational systems. Realizing the part which the one-room log school house played in laying the foundation for our present school system, it seems no more than right that consideration should be given to the first school or schools in each township. The following will give the history of the first schools in each of the twenty townships of Montcalm county:

BELVIDERE SCHOOLS.

The first school held in Belvidere township was taught in the summer of 1868. In the spring of this same year the first school district, which comprised one-fourth of the township directly south of the center, was set off, a meeting called and the necessary officers elected. The rough boards of which the school house was made were bought with money raised among the inhabitants by subscription. When the material had been collected and the shakes for the roof prepared, the inhabitants assembled and the work of construction was of short duration. This house stood near the south quarter post on section 22. This district and that included by Six Lakes were the only whole school districts formed in this township at an early date, considerable territory being attached in fractional school districts to other townships.

BLOOMER SCHOOLS.

As to where the first school in Bloomer was held or by whom it was taught, there is much diversity of opinion and contradictory statements. It seems that in the fall or winter of 1852-53 Alvira K. Miner opened a school in the little log cabin built by her father upon his settlement in the township, he in the meantime having erected a more commodious one for the family. The names of the pupils in this school were Emma G. Harley, Martha Wilsey, Bertram Wilsey, Olive Miner and Onella Hawley.

The next summer the settlers who lived in the eastern part of the township held a school meeting and concluded to build a school house. They accordingly put up a log building, which was nearly square (about twelve feet). It had two half-windows, or single sash of six lights each. The benches were split from basswood logs, and set up on pins. It had a fireplace, such as was common in those days, made of stones and mud, and a stick chimney on the outside. Alvira Miner was secured to teach this school also, and it is said by some that she received one dollar per week for her services, but others seem to doubt the ability of the early settlers to raise so munificent a sum. The next term was also taught by her. She was much esteemed as a teacher.

The same summer when Miss Miner taught her first school in this cabin the spirit of enterprise seized the settlers in the vicinity of Miner's Corners. A school meeting was called, Anderson Miner was elected director, while David Siebrig and Mark Wilsey were called upon to fill the responsible positions of moderator and assessor. It was then resolved to build a school house. Accordingly, a body of logs was raised, making a room sixteen by twenty feet. It was finished much after the description of that in the east part of the township. Which was built first it is impossible to say definitely, but it was probably the one at the center. The first teacher was Ruth Dodge, from Ionia county.

BUSHNELL SCHOOLS.

At a meeting of the school board, held on April 10, 1850, district No. 1 was formed by Chauncey W. Olmstead and William Husker, members of the board. This district comprised sections 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33 and 34. A school house was soon after built on the farm of Joseph Stevens, just south of the south branch of Prairie creek. This school house served

the purpose of town house, meeting house, etc., for the whole township for a number of years. The first election held in this building was for the purpose of electing county and state officers on the 10th of November, 1850. Jane Ransom, whose people had settled in Ronald, Ionia county, taught the first school in Bushnell.

Pursuant to an application of persons interested, on November 12, 1852, the school board again met and set off district No. 2, which included sections 13, 15, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36. It will be seen that this district included all the settlements in the township east of Prairie creek. A school house was immediately built of logs on the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 25, and for a number of years served as a meeting house for all denominations, and filled a want, on this side of the stream, similar to the school house on the other side.

District No. 3 was formed by the board on the 17th of November, 1853, at which time it comprised sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18 and the western half of sections 4, 9 and 16. On the 8th of December, following, the board set off district No. 4, which included the southwestern part of the township. Its boundaries were soon more or less changed, as were those of the other districts.

The record of examination bears date of November 8, 1854, at which time Joseph W. Metcalf and Julia Coates applied and were given certificates. A report, entered on February 10, 1855, shows that schools had been taught in districts 1, 2 and 3. It also indicates the apportionment of the mill tax in the several districts to have been as follows: District No. 1 received \$18.00; No. 2, \$8.53; No. 3, \$11.60. The number of children attending in district No. 1 was 60; in No. 2, 29; No. 3, 37.

CATO SCHOOLS.

In the year 1857, after the organization of Cato, that part which constitutes the present township was divided into two school districts, which probably comprised the greater portion of its inhabitants, although the boundaries of these districts cannot now be definitely stated. They were, however, numbered 1 and 2, according to the time when they were organized, but it is believed that school was first opened in district No. 2.

The inhabitants in district No. 1, which at that time comprised the northwest portion of the town, made a bee, and with their united effort a school house of logs, twenty-two by twenty-four feet, was soon erected on the north part of the land owned by James Edgar. Mary Hull, the daughter of

Hiram Hull, who settled in the township the year previous, taught the first school here. She also taught several other terms, and subsequently died of consumption.

In district No. 2 the school house, which the people also built, was of a more primitive pattern. It was made of logs, but the roof was covered with bark, and the floor across the road from the site now occupied by the school house in this district. The first term was taught by Pearly Galleo, who had come to the township a short time previous. She taught three months, and in default of money sufficient to pay her pittance for these services, she received a calico dress bought for her by the director of the district at Greenville. She returned to her former home in Ohio.

The following are the names of the scholars who composed this school: Clara Galleo, Elizabeth Taylor, Phebe Butler, Samuel J. Youngman, Ellsworth Galleo, Uriah E. Struiker.

School district No. 3 was set off by the school board on the 7th of March, 1858. It at this time included the southeast quarter of the township but no action was taken by the inhabitants to organize, and no school was opened here until some years after. These school districts have all been rearranged from time to time.

CRYSTAL SCHOOLS.

In the fall of 1856 a school meeting was called at the house of Ephraim Hatfield, and after some preliminaries he was chosen director. There is no record of this meeting, and the persons elected to fill the other offices of the district are not now known. A vote to build a school house prevailed, and it was decided to build it on the northwest corner of the southeast quarter of section 34. This land at this time was owned by James Beck, from whom it was leased. The people were not taxed, but members assembled and built a house of logs about twenty feet square, with two windows, a fireplace, and a door in the side.

In the fall the first term of school was commenced by Maria Lindsay. She taught three months, and received two dollars and a half per week and boarded around in the district. The school was not large, numbering about twelve at most. Miss Lindsay subsequently taught one term in Gratiot county, and was married to Henry Gee. They settled in the village of Crystal, where she died and where Mr. Gee resided for a long time. The following summer Anna Richardson, whose parents were early settlers of Bloomer, taught one term in this house.

The first school in the northern part of the township was taught by Eveline Roop, whose parents were residents of Bloomer township. A log cabin had been nearly completed by a man who had pre-empted the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 1. It stood on the rise near the line of the section, just north of the little stream that crosses the road near by. Another term was taught in this cabin by Maria Ward. Previous to this time John W. Smith and the inhabitants of this neighborhood met and laid up the body of a log house near the road on the north part of section 29, but as the county school here was abandoned and the children of this district who were large enough attended school in the Burke district. A school was opened here, however, in about two years.

DAY SCHOOLS.

In the spring of 1866 the school board formed the northwest quarter of the township into a school district. The first school meeting was held at the house of H. E. W. Palmer, he being chosen director, and Samuel Butts, moderator; Marcellus Palmer, assessor. The first school was taught by Mrs. H. E. W. Palmer in an unoccupied room of her dwelling. Arrangements were made to build a log school house, but the motion was reconsidered by a vote of the district, and it was decided to erect a frame one, which was accordingly done. The second term, however, was taught by Lodema Palmer in the log house of Samuel Butts, before the school house was completed. She became the wife of E. M. Mallett. The second school was taught in the northeastern part of the township; but, as the inhabitants mostly soon after moved away, the district formation was dropped. The fractional school district at Stanton was next perfected.

DOUGLASS SCHOOLS.

On the 17th of September, 1863, the first school meeting of Douglass convened at the school house, which was at this time in process of building, on section 9. This township, it will be remembered, yet formed a part of Pine, and the school house had been built through the direction of the school board of that township. At the meeting referred to two new settlers who had just reached the town that day were present, S. L. Smith and Aaron Hunt. The latter was elected director, the former assessor, and Benajah Persens, moderator. S. L. Smith was subsequently elected director, and served nine years.

No arrangements for a school were made until the next spring, when Mr. Hunt canvassed the township and found it practicable, the settlers subscribing one dollar per scholar for the purpose of employing a teacher. As there were but seven pupils in the district the sum was not large. Elizabeth Aldrich was engaged to teach, for which the district agreed to pay one dollar and fifty cents per week, board not included. The pupils' names were Margaret Aldrich, Phoebe Smith, Byron Smith, Albert Hunt, Cornelius Hart, Ida Whitmore and Agnes Whitmore. Miss Aldrich, at the time she taught this school, was sixteen years of age. She taught three months, the parents in the district making up by subscription the necessary fund. She was also employed to teach the next school here, wages being increased to two dollars and fifty cents per week. She subsequently became the wife of C. V. Kilborn. The next school was opened in district No. 2, a log school house being built there in 1868. It stood on the northwest quarter of section 13, and was later used as a dwelling house. The first term was taught by Vina Cory. This building was used until 1876, when a new one was erected. The school building in district No. 1 was built in 1878.

EUREKA SCHOOLS.

On September 14, 1850, the township of Eureka organized districts 4 and 5. No. 4 was ordained to contain the south half of section 27, the south half of 28, the south half of 29, the south half of 30, the whole of sections 31, 32, 33 and 34, and the west half of 35. No. 5 contained sections 21 and 22, the north halves of 27, 28, 29 and 30, and the south halves of 19 and 20.

EVERGREEN SCHOOLS.

On the 23d of October, 1856, Ira Ryder, in compliance with a resolution passed at the first school meeting in Evergreen, addressed a letter to William Phinsey, commanding him to notify the qualified electors interested that the board had formed a school district to be known as school district No. 1, and to include sections 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33. The first meeting of the district was appointed to be held at the house of Robert Bennett, on the 9th of November, 1856. There were then five voters in the district, as appears from the return letter, which asserts that the following named parties were personally notified of said meeting: Ira Ryder, William Morgan, Charles Richardson, Robert Bennett and William Phin-

esey. At the meeting held in accordance with this notice, it was unanimously resolved to have a three-months' school by a female teacher. Another meeting was held on the 22d of November, and the site selected upon which stands the school house. In accordance with a vote of the district, a neat framed school house, which cost one hundred and seventy-five dollars, was erected by Charles H. Randall. Upon its completion, Maria White was employed as teacher, her school numbering six scholars, representing three families. Their names were Louisa Morgan, Harrietta Morgan, Theodore Phinsey, John Phinsey, Hattie Bennett and David Bennett. She received one dollar and fifty cents per week, which for her services amounted to six dollars from each family.

Miss White subsequently became the wife of Nathan Heath, and lived in Roland. The next school in this district was taught by Mary Callaghan, who taught a number of terms in succession. She became the wife of James Donovan, and lived in Bloomer.

School district No. 2 was formed some years later, and included the territory in the vicinity of Mud lake. The inhabitants at once erected a log school house, and the district has continued with slight changes to the present time. The southeastern part of the township was formed into a fractional school district with the adjoining towns in an early day.

FAIRPLAIN SCHOOLS.

In the summer of 1847 the citizens of the northwest part of the township decided to organize a school, and in accordance with this resolution they met and built a small cabin of boards, on the southwest quarter of section 5, opposite the place now occupied by a school house on section 7, and Alice Wilcox, whose people lived in Eureka, was secured as a teacher. She afterwards became the wife of Myron Burley. As has been said, the building was a little frame structure, and stood on the corner of the southwest quarter of section 5, where it was used a number of terms. But continued additions to the school soon rendered a larger room necessary, and a neat frame building was erected on the same site, the old one being torn down.

This was not, however, considered a favorable site for a school house, and the ground now occupied was selected and the school house moved from its old location to the new, where it was subsequently burned, after which the one now standing was built. A little later, in the same summer, a board

shanty was erected near the site now occupied by the school house on section 2, and Caroline Wilcox taught in this building.

Early in the spring of 1848 John and Gibson Fargo, brothers, built the first substantial school house in the township. The lumber for it came from Greenville. Caroline Wilcox also taught the first school in this building. It was important in the early affairs of the township as being the place of holding all the elections and political meetings of note, as well as being a place of worship for the various religious denominations, who were endeavoring to establish their respective societies in the township. It was known for many years, from a liberal coat of red paint which it received, as the "Red School House." It stood on land owned by Joseph Russell, on the west line of section 20, about eighty rods north of the quarter post, and was destroyed by fire in January, 1861. Jacob King was the first male teacher in the township. He taught in this building during the winter of 1848-49. James Snow, who taught the first school in the winter of 1849-50, later moved to Grand Rapids. Sarah Jane Rasmussen was among the early teachers, and her sister, Mary, who also taught, married and removed to New York.

It will be seen, therefore, that previous to the organization of town 9 north, range 7 west, there had been several terms of school taught and several districts formed while it was yet a part of the township of Montcalm, which at that time really included the whole county. But when the board met at the house of Roswell Dudley, on the 29th of April, 1850, they made some slight changes in the boundaries of these districts and numbered them "according to the time in which they were formed." Thus district No. 1 included sections 5, 7, 8, and district No. 2 included sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30. These districts were first set off by the county school board in 1847, and the first schools were taught as before stated. At this first meeting of the school board of Fairplain a petition, signed by Freeman A. Decker, Oliver Decker, Edward Decker, Jesse Decker, Joseph Decker, Ebenezer Sadyer and Luther R. Jenks, was presented, and in compliance with it the board formed district No. 3, the limits of which, as with the others, have been since considerably changed, although the body of the district occupies about the same relative position.

During the first year (1850) of the organization of the township the primary school fund for all the schools amounted to eighteen dollars and thirty-six cents, and was divided among the several districts as follows: District No. 1 received \$9.18; district No. 2 received \$5.78; district No. 3

received \$3.40. On May 5, 1851, the school board met at what was then known as the "Red School House," in district No. 2, and examined teachers. Catherine Satterlee received a certificate, and on November 8 James Snow also received one. District No. 5 was formed on April 10, 1852, at which time it comprised sections 24, 25, 26, 34, 35 and 36. Notice was forwarded to William Clark, instructing him to call the first district meeting at his house, April 17, 1852. Among the early teachers also were Misses P. A. Root, Rosetta Jenks and Rachel King.

FERRIS SCHOOLS.

The first school in Ferris was taught at the center of the township in a log school house which stood on the southwest quarter of section 15. This house had three windows and a Dutch fireplace in one end. The seats were made without backs, of planks, into which legs were driven. Sticks driven into the walls, on which boards were laid, served as desks. The first school was taught by Esther Ann Hare, in the summer of 1857. She received one dollar per week and boarded herself. There were but three families in the district. Miss Hare taught but one term here. The next school house was built in district No. 1. It was a neat frame buildings, which cost about four hundred and seventy-five dollars. The lumber of which it was built came from Hubbardston and Alma. Margaret Luscombe was the first teacher in this building. She afterwards married and lived in Estella.

On the second Saturday in April, 1857, the board of school inspectors met to examine candidates wishing to teach. But, as no candidates appeared, the board proceeded to lay out the township in school districts, commencing with the northeast part of the township. The boundaries then laid out bear but little resemblance to those of today, and have been so frequently changed and were of such duration that they were scarcely recognized. On the 9th of October, following (1857), a second meeting was held, at which time a report to the township treasurer shows that there were then twenty-two pupils in district No. 5, which corresponded with district No. 1 of the present day, which is the central district of the township. The money voted for school purposes was twenty-two dollars, with six dollars for incidental expenses. The only books mentioned were "Webster's Dictionaries." On the 7th of November the first candidate appeared before the school board in the person of Maribee Macomber, to whom a certificate was granted. At the meeting of the board in 1858 the town clerk was ordered to inform Perry T. Bailey that school district No. 3 had been formed, and that the first meet-

ing would be held at his house on the 27th of November, 1858. The returns show that Mr. Bailey notified the following persons, according to law: James Tislue, Henry Grim, Hezekiah Davis, Myron Austin, Ashel Buck, Richard Bailey, Levi Camburn and William Davis. At the meeting of the board Esther Hare received a certificate to teach. The first meeting in school district No. 1, in the northeastern part of the township, was at the house of Micajah Douglas, January 1, 1858. The letter calling this meeting was directed to Peter Schlappie, and the returns show there were then in the district A. Conner, M. Douglas, E. Sherman, S. Burtch, Lawson Sherman, Henry Ferris, Gilbert Ferris and John Rank. These were the first schools in the township.

HOME SCHOOLS.

No school was taught in Home until the spring of 1865, when the people in the south part of the township met and organized a school district, and built a small log house on the southeast part of section 28, and employed Orlando Evans as teacher. He was a nephew of Josiah Fair, with whom he resided at the time. Later he resided in Stanton. The next summer a site for another school house was selected one and one-half miles east of the first. A house was erected, in which a school was opened by Mrs. James Brown, whose husband taught at the same time in the cabin before referred to. The first frame school house was built on the east line of section 30, in district No. 3.

MAPLE VALLEY SCHOOLS.

The first school district was set off by the school board of Pierson in the fall of 1860. It comprised the northwest quarter of the township. The first school meeting was held at the house of E. J. Blanding, on section 7. He was elected director, Clayton Wood, moderator, and James Ferguson, assessor. No school was taught during the winter. In the following spring a log cabin, eighteen by twenty-four feet, was built on the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of section 7, on land owned by Howland Soules. Elizabeth Parker, who became the wife of Peter Taylor, taught the first school, which lasted three months. She had seven pupils from the families of James and Jacob Ferguson, Charles Parker and Clayton Wood. She received three dollars per week, and boarded around with the patrons of the school. A grand Fourth of July celebration was gotten up during this summer, at which Charles Parker and E. J. Blanding orated, while their families were the interested audience. This was the only district formed previous to

the organization of Maple Valley. The next district formed comprised the central portions of the township.

The school in the village of Coral was first taught in a little frame building which stood on the south side of the railroad. But the rapid growth of the village rendered this impossible to accommodate the pupils. Accordingly, the question of building a new house was agitated, and culminated in calling a meeting, at which a building committee of five citizens was appointed and three thousand dollars was voted to build a house, which was completed in 1873, and cost between three and four thousand dollars.

MONTCALM SCHOOLS.

April 15, 1848, the school inspectors of Montcalm township formed in that town certain school districts, of which districts 1, 2, 3 and 6 were embraced in town 9 north, range 8 west, as follows: No. 1 contained sections 4, 9, 15 and 16, and all of section 10, except the northeast quarter; No. 2 contained sections 1, 2, 3 and 11, and the northeast quarter of section 10; No. 3 included sections 12, 13, 14, 23 and 24; No. 6 comprised sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, the north half of 10, and the north half of 20.

PINE SCHOOLS.

The first school in Pine was taught by Jennie Lang, in an unoccupied room of David Hart's house, in the summer of 1858. Miss Lang received one dollar and fifty cents per week. The term lasted three months. This was the first school house in the township. It stood just east of the site later occupied by the residence of Zenas Briggs. Mattie Brown taught the first school here, in the fall of 1863.

REYNOLDS SCHOOLS.

In June, 1869, the school board elected at the first town meeting met and divided the township into six school districts. District No. 1 contained sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and the north half of sections 17 and 18. No. 2 contained section 16, the south half of 17 and 18, sections 19, 20, 21, and the north half of 28, 29 and 30. No. 3 contained the south half of sections 28, 29, 30, the east half of sections 32 and all of section 33. No. 4 contained sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36. No. 5 contained sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23 and 24. No. 6 contained sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12.

RICHLAND SCHOOLS.

After the organization of the township the board met and divided it into school districts. There were at the time, however, scarcely pupils enough for one district, and but one therefore organized. This was at the center of the township. The few families in the south part attended school in Ferris, sometimes walking several miles for that purpose. The people of district No. 1 met at the house of Joshua Painter in the spring of 1869 and elected the necessary officers and resolved to have three months school. Joshua Painter, being appointed director, employed John Henry as teacher, who fulfilled his engagement and taught in a little unoccupied log house which had been built on the farm of Rufus Saunders. In the fall the log house on the east side of the road and on the northeast corner of section 21 was erected. This was the first school house in the township, and the first school in it was taught by Anna Woodard.

SIDNEY SCHOOLS.

The first school of Sidney was taught in 1858, in a log school house which stood on the north line of the southeast quarter of section 20, on land later owned by Jera B. Grover. It was taught by Martha Newberry, whose parents live in Montcalm. The school consisted of but seven pupils, who represented three families. Their names are as follow: Orange Noah, Ruth Noah, Abbie Noah, Richard Vaness, Nelson Vaness, Nancy Vaness and Helen Vaness. Miss Newberry received one dollar and a quarter per week. She subsequently married Lute Griffith, and lived in Montcalm township. The next school was built at Sidney Center, and the first term in it was taught by Nancy Lyons in 1862. She afterwards married William Kelly and removed to Clam lake.

WINFIELD SCHOOLS.

District No. 1, of Winfield, was formed in the fall of 1860, and the contract to build a school house was taken by Henry Macomber, who at once prepared logs for that purpose. The building, however, was not completed until the fall of the following year. This house was made of well-hewn logs, from which it received the name of "Blackhouse," a term applied to it until it was superseded by a frame building some years later. It was well furnished with board desks and seats, and soon became the place of holding

political and religious meetings of all parties and sects, and really answered as town house, church and school house for the whole township.

Miss Swarthout, who subsequently became the wife of Henry Clark, and was later a resident of Mecosta county, is believed to have taught the first school. In the year 1862 there were but two regularly formed school districts in the township. District No. 1 contained the greater part of the northeastern quarter, and district No. 2 the northwestern quarter. The south half had been divided by the school board, but the inhabitants, being few and scattering, had taken no steps towards permanent organization.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION.

After the county had been entirely settled and school districts had been laid out, the school system began to take on more permanent form. This began first in the township supervision; later this work came under a county head. The first office created in the county to be the head of the educational systems in the county was the county superintendent of schools. The county superintendent of schools was selected by the board of examiners and this came out of the inspectors from each township. At this early date the board of examiners consisted of a secretary and two others appointed by the board of supervisors for their term of two years. In the beginning of the school systems there was no county system for township inspection, the superintendent having the power to license the teachers and carry on the general supervision of his township.

The office of county commissioner of schools, which is the present head of the school system in the county, began in 1889. The first to serve under this system was J. E. McCloskey, who held the office for a period of four years. Mr. McCloskey is now superintendent of the Howard City schools, a position which he has held for twelve years. A. N. Demorey succeeded Mr. McCloskey, and also held the office for a period of four years. The present incumbent, Eugene D. Straight, has held this office for eighteen years, which alone speaks for the worth of this man and the judgment he has exercised in his official capacity. Mr. Straight has taken the school system at the point left off by his predecessors, and through the earnest endeavors and the support of the education-loving people of the county, raised the schools to the present pinnacle which they hold. There are still two examiners, who serve for a period of two years, and are appointed by the supervisors. The commissioner of schools, however, is an elective office of four years and carries with it a salary of one thousand five hundred dol-

lars per year. There are one hundred and forty-two school districts in Montcalm county, and there are two hundred twenty licensed teachers. Three grades of teachers' certificates are issued in the county, namely: The first grade, that of four years; second grade, of three years; and third grade, of one year. The scope of territory which the class of school districts of the county cover extends from the one-room building, teaching all of the common branches, to the banner high schools of the county, with all their modern departments.

In listing the schools, beginning with the high schools and extending on down to those in the districts with only the eight grades, the first mentioned is Greenville. Then following, in order, comes Howard City, Carson City, Stanton, Lakeview and Edmore, all on the accredited university list. Sheridan and Coral also have schools of twelve grades. Trufant alone has a school of eleven grades. McBride, Vestaburg, Six Lakes, Vickeryville or No. 5, Bushnell, Crystal, Langston or No. 1, and Pine, all support schools of ten grades. In addition to the above named, there are the following two-room common schools for ten grades located in the following districts: Ferris No. 3, Crystal No. 7, Evergreen No. 2 and No. 8, Dogulass No. 1, Pine No. 3, Pierson No. 2, and Sidney No. 1.

In a certain sense no district school can be held up above the others as surpassing in any way, but one school in the county deserves mention not only the system which is of A-1 standing; but the beautiful buildings which the patrons of this district have made possible the erection. This is a two-room, ten-grade building in Ferris township, district No. 3. This building was erected of conglomerate stone, and is built in such way as to give it the most artistic effect possible.

HISTORY OF STANTON SCHOOLS.

The first school in Stanton was taught by Nancy Green in the court room of the old wooden court house. There were five pupils and she received ten shillings a week for her services. The next winter Mrs. Levi Camburn taught a school in her home. There were then seven scholars. This was the first school taught by a regularly inspected teacher, and it secured the organization of the district and the school fund. These first two schools were paid for by private subscription. The school district, which includes Stanton No. 3 fractional, includes a part of the four adjacent townships of Sidney, Evergreen, Day and Douglass, and was organized by the school boards of the respective townships on May 9, 1863. At the first

meeting Abram Roosa was chosen moderator, Levi Camburn, director, and D. O. Cornell, assessor. On September 8 the board voted to raise one dollar per scholar and five dollars for immediate expenses. The school house site was established and two hundred dollars voted for building purposes. The board was appointed as a building committee and the house was erected and accepted in 1866. E. K. Wood was the first male teacher in the district. It was organized as a graded school in 1866. The first board of trustees under the graded system were Oscar Fenn, Asa Morse, J. P. Beers, Marmon Smith, Aaron Lyon and E. K. Wood.

When the school house was finished it consisted of two rooms and a small wing on each side used for halls and stairways. It was started in June and finished in December, so the pupils started to school on Christmas Day. There were then seventy-five pupils, and E. K. Wood was the professor. Up to this time the school had not been graded and at last the attendance became so great that the house east of the Methodist Episcopal church was rented for the primary department. Then, after a year or two, additions were made to the school house. Later it became so crowded that the halls on the south were used for recitation rooms. At this time there were four teachers employed, Mr. and Mrs. N. O. Griswold, Libby Holmden and Miss Nicholas. Between the years 1871 and 1880 another addition was built on the east side of the building. This was then called the central building. The high school, grammar and primary departments were in this building. The kindergarten and first and second grades were taught in the first ward building on Mill street. The fifth, sixth and seventh grades were then included in the grammar department. During the years 1882-83 Josephine Drury was the superintendent and Miss Holleck was the principal. There were three graduates in the year 1882 and one in 1883. Mr. Ransom was superintendent in the year 1884. There were three graduates at this time.

In the year 1888 the superintendent was Mr. Benedict. Mrs. Cook was principal. There were seven graduates that year. During Mr. Benedict's term he became ill and resigned, and Mrs. Comstock was appointed to fill the vacancy. For two years she retained this position. In 1889 there were four graduates. Mrs. Lizzie Youngs was principal during the year 1890 and Flora Rood during the years 1891 and 1892. In 1890 there were three graduates, in 1891, seven, and in 1892 there were eleven. Maud Tucker Doolittle, who graduated in the year 1889, later graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and later studied in Berlin. She is now a noted pianist in New York. Leslie Vaughn, who graduated in 1886, is a noted

violinist and has toured Europe twice and American three times. He has played for the Prince of Wales and also in the Queen's orchestra.

Mr. McCloskey was appointed superintendent in the year 1893 and held this position for the following ten years. The number of graduates during the time Mr. McCloskey was superintendent and Mary B. Carpenter was principal are as follow: Two in 1893, eight in 1894, six in 1895, five in 1896, nine in 1897, ten in 1898, eleven in 1899, sixteen in 1900, eight in 1901, and nine in 1902.

Mr. Hendry was chosen superintendent in 1903 and Miss Hinds was principal from 1903 to 1904. Then Miss Carpenter was again principal for a few years. The number of graduates each year that Mr. Hendry was superintendent is as follow: Two in 1903, eight in 1904, fifteen in 1905, fourteen in 1906, six in 1907, and ten in 1908.

Mrs. Ellsworth was superintendent in the year 1909 and Miss Passage was the principal. The number of graduates that year was eleven.

The year of 1910 Mr. Jennings was chosen superintendent, with Miss Tarrey as assistant. Mr. Jennings served the school for two years. Miss Tarrey was taken sick during her second year and was followed by Mr. Sessions, a former teacher at Sheridan. In the spring of 1911 Mr. Sessions resigned and Mr. Whitcomb took his place. The number of graduates in 1910 was seven, and in 1911 there were ten.

In the fall of 1912 Mr. Whitcomb was chosen superintendent and Miss Galation was principal. In 1913 Miss Hunt was secured as principal. There were twenty-three graduates in 1912, twenty-seven in 1913 and fifteen in 1914.

In the fall of 1914 Albert L. Cook was secured to take the superintendent's chair, and Miss Rowe was principal. The number of graduates in 1915 were fourteen.

The new Stanton union school building was started in the year of 1905 and was completed in October, 1906. This building is a modern brick structure, well heated, lighted and ventilated. The school has a well-equipped laboratory and a good library has also been worked up from time to time. The rooms are tastefully decorated and many of the best pictures adorn the walls. In connection with the school there is one of the best-equipped normal rooms in the state.

The Stanton high school has been on the university list for the last twelve years. This school has always been prominent in debating contests and oratorical work. During the last year, under the supervision of Supt. A. L. Cook, they have been able to defeat some of the best schools in the

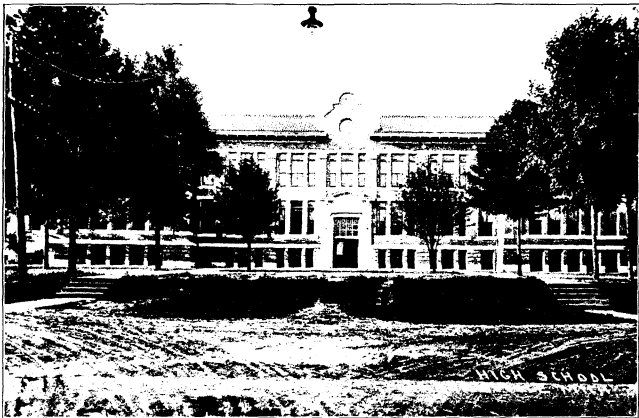
county. The high school has always competed at the field meets, and has won a share of prizes. The silver trophy offered by Mr. Baker, of Greenville, was won from Howard City in 1915—Stanton winning a total of ten games out of a possible fourteen during the year. The members of the championship team were Melville Been, Carl Busch, George M. Stevenson, Heman B. Blumberg, L. C. Barnett, Lloyd Barnett, Frank A. Miller, Glenn Hunsicker and Vernon J. Tishue. In all the years of the Stanton high school this was the first aggregation to land the championship. Stanton has been represented by a number of fast teams in basket ball, and has defeated many of the best teams of the county.

The Montcalm County Normal was organized in 1908. It is a department of the Stanton school system but is separated and distinct in all management, having its own teachers and under the direction of the county normal board and board of education. The normal teachers are Miss Winn, Miss Wilson, Miss Palmer and Miss Crawford. The number of graduates in 1908 was seven; in 1909, seventeen; 1910, eighteen; 1911, twelve; 1912, thirteen; 1913, nineteen; 1914, fifteen, and 1915, nine.

HOWARD CITY SCHOOLS.

The first school was founded in Howard City in 1869, soon after the first settlement was made. So rapid was the growth of the town that there was not time to build a school building at the time, so a rough board building, formerly used as a carpenter shop near the site of the present electric light plant, was made into a school house by placing in it some crude benches and desks. Mr. Sabine was the first teacher. The district was organized under the primary school law, with Charles O. A. Adams and L. D. Locklin as directors, J. T. Jones as moderator and John F. Chubb as assessor.

On February 3, 1871, plans and specifications were adopted by the district for a school building, which was to be twenty-four by thirty-six feet. This was to be a one-story building. Before work was begun upon it the plan was found to be inadequate for the present needs. Therefore, on September 19, new plans were adopted for a two-story building, thirty-eight by forty-eight feet, which was to be erected upon the present site. Annie Pierson, the first teacher, remained until 1872. In 1873 the upper room was finished, and Thomas E. Keith took charge. At this time the faculty consisted of Morris E. Keith, Sarah L. Keith and Julia Dove. So great was the increase in numbers attending that, in 1878, Lowell L. Horton was



GREENVILLE'S \$100,000 HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.



GREENVILLE'S UNIQUE CITY BUILDING.

added to the staff, having the position of principal. On January 6, 1879, Mrs. S. C. Langerson took charge of the intermediate department, which position she held for nineteen years.

On February 17, 1885, the school house burned, and it was decided to rebuild upon the old site. A new building was erected, which contained five rooms and a recitation room.

In 1897 a number of new subjects were added to the curriculum. In the same year Ethelwyn Whalley became principal. At this time the enrollment was four hundred and eighteen. The following is a complete list of the Howard City principals: 1873, M. E. Keith; 1878, Lowell Horton; 1879-80, Thomas H. Clayton; 1881-82, William E. Watt; 1883-84, Myron O. Graves; 1884-87, F. V. Wickham; 1888, C. B. Collingwood; 1889-90, George D. Papsen; 1890-07, E. D. Straight; 1898-1904, Henry Tullis; 1904-16, J. E. McCloskey.

The Howard City high school is on the university list. It boasts of nine teachers, four for the high school and eighth grade, one for sixth and seventh, one for fourth and fifth, one for second and third, and one for the first grade and kindergarten. There are two hundred and twenty-one pupils in the grades, and seventy-three in the high school, making a total of two hundred and ninety-four. The building contains nine rooms, the high school and eighth grade being on the second floor, the rest on the first. Improvements have been made at various times, steam heat being installed in 1910, electric lights in 1913 and drinking fountains in 1915. The total number of graduates to date is two hundred and thirty-two, nine being the average number graduated each year.

Howard City was one of the first schools in this part of the county to introduce music and drawing. Mr. Oaks was the first music instructor, taking charge about twenty-six years ago. Latin was introduced the same year; German not until 1912.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF GREENVILLE.

By Harriet Macomber.

In 1845 the inhabitants of Greenville decided that the future prosperity of this town depended upon the education of their children. Their sincerity in this was shown by the erection of a school building on the site now occupied by the city hall. Since then eight other structures and two annexed portions have housed the schools of the place.

The three-storied white brick building, which perished by fire in 1911,

was the best known of these structures, for it stood like a sentinel guarding the little city from 1869 to 1911. The cost was \$30,000, Judge Myron Rider being the director at the time of its erection. The fine high ground upon which it stood was purchased from the government by Judge Josiah Russell. This land became the property of Manning Rutan, and was by his generosity presented to the city as a school site. The land was covered with fine oak trees, both white and black, while here and there a fine specimen of wild cherry added variety. The land sloped gently northward toward Franklin streets; its once beautiful slopes have since been replaced by artificial levels, far less attractive than the original ground.

So suitable in many ways was this elevated site, and so dear had it become to the alumni of the school, that no material consideration could induce them to believe that a more suitable location could be found for the fine building which replaced the structure built in 1869.

That the men of the sixties believed in doing things well was proved by the great strength of the walls of the old building. Gouged by fire in its hour of destruction, the walls stood firm, acting like a great chimney through which the fire poured, destroying the interior, but powerless against the walls. The fire occurred on the night of April 23, 1911.

The little first building, twelve by sixteen feet, was presided over by Catherine Satterlee. Of her twenty-five pupils, six were Indians. She received for her services nine shillings a week, and the privilege of testing the beds and fare in the homes of her school children.

A second building, known as the "Old Red School House," which served for church and public meetings, as well as school, stood at the corner of Cass and Lafayette streets. This was removed to Grove street east, and transformed into a small boarding house, called the "Eagle Hotel."

Quite the most ambitious of the earlier buildings was a four-room structure on Cass street, erected in 1853. For many years the name of Mrs. Millie Stoughton was a power in this building. Other earlier teachers were E. B. Towle, the first teacher, who was succeeded by J. R. Brigham. But time and change wrought their work here, too, and the old wooden building is now a tenement house on upper Orange street.

Cities often change their minds as to the direction of their growth—this was true of Greenville. The city began to grow northward, until today a good part of the town stands north of the river. Because of the increase of population in North Greenville a building of white brick, containing two rooms, was erected on William street, in 1872. In time manufacturing

crowded this building, making the vicinity unsuitable for a school; it was abandoned and afterwards sold and torn down.

The schools became so crowded that a small, two-roomed building was erected on Clay street; this was first occupied in 1889. Even this was not provided with any of the modern conveniences until it was remodeled in 1909. It is today one of the most cheery and inviting building in the city. It contains six rooms, and is provided with furnace, electric lights and basement toilet rooms.

In 1902 the present Cass street school, a neat red brick structure, was erected. The contractor was Edward Backus, who did the work for \$5,000. This contained four rooms, provided with furnace heat and electric lights. Many improvements have been added to it in later years, until now it is a well-equipped building.

In 1908, at a cost of \$20,000, an annex to the white brick building was erected. This was a two-story and basement affair, which served as high school auditorium. It contained also the superintendent's office and four recitation rooms, and the rooms devoted to the use of the commercial department. The high school had been occupying the third story of the old building; this the steadily increasing numbers crowded until it seemed impossible to get along with so little room; moreover, the floors of the third story were condemned as insecure; hence the annex was built to relieve the crowded rooms. This annex was not entirely satisfactory, and yet when fire took the old building, the structure, though injured, did not burn, but remained and became very useful during the building of the new structure. The old building burned on Sunday night. With characteristic energy, the superintendent, C. F. Straight, planned and arranged accommodations for the school. On Wednesday all students were in classes again. The Grange hall became the scene of much activity, and the city hall became a school house for the younger grades.

There is one more small building to mention. The Pearl street school was occupied first in January, 1914. This is a building of two rooms for the younger children of the North Greenville families. It is well built, and possesses all the necessary equipment for a well-ordered school.

Great interest surrounds the fine structure built to replace the old "Union school." Its corner stone was laid in 1912 with impressive ceremonies. In June, 1913, the commencement exercises were held in its auditorium. The building is one of the most modern in design of any in the state. The architect who drew the plans is E. Boyd, of Lansing. The

contractors were Wright & Prall, and they did their work well. The structure stands in the center of Franklin street, which slopes northward from it. It extends broadly from east to west one hundred and sixty-five feet and has a depth of one hundred and thirty-five feet. This material is red shale brick, with trimmings of white sandstone, the roof being of red tile. There are many entrances, but the main entrance is in the center of the north frontage. By this one enters a corridor extending east and west, while directly in front is the north wing of one story, containing the fine high school auditorium. This room is the crowning glory of the building; nothing, seemingly, has been left undone in making it beautiful and useful. At the south end is a stage with all the equipment for entertainments or plays, yet the utilitarian side has not here been forgotten, for wooden sliding partitions may be used for transforming it into recitation rooms. The same planning has been used in the balcony in the north end of the room. The woodwork is in the dull finish of a beautiful brown oak. The desks are of the same color, in mission style. These are unique in that they were suggested by Superintendent Straight, and designed in the mechanical drawing department under the charge of Hester Fuller; the desks are removable, each having a silver plate containing its number, and a chair with a duplicate number. In twelve minutes students remove the desks and transform the room into an audience room, reception hall, great play room, or whatever way as be desired. Pieces of statuary and fine pictures adorn the room, the whole effect being one of restfulness and beauty. The same scheme for desks is carried out in the primary room with perfect success. The little folks like nothing better than changing the prosaic arrangement usual in school furniture, to more artistic forms. Upon this same corridor may be found the superintendent's office, high school recitation rooms, three grade rooms and numerous cloak rooms.

The stairs at the west end descend to the library. This is both public and school library, and the librarian, Alice Fuller, looks after the needs of all. The library is fast recovering from the injuries done by fire and water; the people of the city often add gifts which are greatly appreciated. Among the most prominent donors was Dr. John Avery, who gave many volumes. Miss Laura Richardson has recently presented both books and pictures. Various reading tables accommodate students. The best current literature is provided, and even the little folks have their own corner for reading.

From the basement corridor one may enter great play rooms, one for boys and one for girls. Here, too, are well-equipped laboratories, with the

necessary class rooms. Toilet rooms are on this floor and on the second floor. From the corridor on the second floor one may enter the bookkeeping department, English class room, seventh and eighth grade rooms, balcony and teachers' rest room. All rooms are light and well ventilated. The equipment of the entire building is fast becoming ideal. All floors are of reinforced concrete, arranged to be quite noiseless. The walls are as yet of white, but will be tinted in harmonious colors as time goes on.

Perhaps the once despised "Annex" is today, in the minds of the pupils, the most important part of the building, for there is the gymnasium, the scene of many a hard-fought battle in basket ball, of many a gay, frolicsome party, and of physical training classes enjoyed by all. In the basement are shower baths, toilets and the manual training room. In the second story is the commercial department under the able instructions of Harry Myers.

Too much cannot be said in honor of the men who have personally superintended the building of this fine school and its equipment. No effort was considered by them too great to make for the success of this school plant, although they are busy men, with more than enough of business of their own to occupy their time. These men are Charles M. Miller, Ellis Ranney, Dr. Duncan K. Black, Frank Gibson and Edward J. Bowman. Since the erection of the building Doctor Black has purchased and presented to the school different land south of the building for a fine athletic field. Improvements have been begun upon it, and in time the "D. K. Black Athletic Field" will be one of the finest in the state.

One could hardly close this brief article about the schools without a bit of reminiscence. Memory recalls some of the sterling people who were strong supporters of the school in an early day. A few of them have been mentioned. But there was a group of college men and women who made their interest felt by even the younger pupils in the early days: Rev. J. L. Patton, pastor of the First Congregational church for twenty-five years; Mrs. Patton and Mrs. S. R. Stevens, who used to bring their weekly darning and sit among us listening with keen interest; Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Crabill, always as much at home there, and as well known to the pupils as the teachers themselves; Doctor and Mrs. Fish, the father and mother of our dear high school principal, Mary E. Fish. There have been many more as the years have rolled along, and most of them have passed on.

Comparatively few superintendents have been employed since 1869. The first was S. S. Babcock, who forsook teaching to become a Detroit lawyer; Mr. MacGrath; Mr. Dutton; Edward P. Church, who served many years,

and left in 1889 to become superintendent of the state school for the blind; N. A. Richards; F. D. Smith; Chester F. Straight, now representing the Charles E. Merrill Book Company. The present superintendent is A. R. Shigley, who is ably carrying on the work so well begun. The small number of superintendents indicate good usage on the part of Greenville people, and efficient service on the part of the men. Added to the work of these superintendents is the work of Miss Fish, whose splendid influence over school and community can never be overestimated.

The high school has in the present year enrolled two hundred and fifteen pupils. To these is offered a choice of several courses. A college preparatory course offers Latin, French and German. A commercial course offers bookkeeping, penmanship, typewriting and stenography. Work in algebra, geometry and trigonometry is offered; the history classes are many and well taught; a course in agriculture is provided, and a course in mechanical drawing. Sewing classes attract the girls, and manual training is offered both boys and girls. A class in orchestral music is receiving instruction, and one in vocal chorus work. A high school "Senate" offers to the boys opportunity for oratory and argument, and a literary club will fulfill the same office for the girls.

A system of school banking through all the grades attempts to teach common business rules and saving. Drawing and music receive much attention through all the grades. A phonograph has been purchased through the efforts of the seventh and eighth grade pupils, and a lantern is soon to be installed. Altogether, the little school community is a busy, busy place, with no room for sluggards. The school is drawing in the fine young people from the country round about, and their appreciation is an inspiration to all connected with the school. The new building is the scene of many lectures and club gatherings of the citizens, making it a community center as well as school. May the good work go on, and our young people become the best of men and women through all these splendid influences.

CHAPTER XXVII.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENVILLE.

On the 5th of June, 1852, a meeting was held in the public school house which stood on the northwest corner of Cass and Lafayette streets, in Greenville, for the purpose of considering the expediency of organizing a Congregational church. Rev. S. N. Manning was chosen the first pastor, and the following named people were the charter members: Manning Rutan and wife, Hiram H. Slawson and wife, Ursan Goodman and wife, Harriet B. Peck, Frank S. Peck, Philander A. Peck, Mrs. Adeline Shaw and William Gordon. They continued to hold their meetings in this school house until 1856, when a frame building was put up at the corner of Cass and Clay streets. In 1880 this building was removed to make way for a beautiful edifice of stone and brick, which cost \$25,000, and which was dedicated on June 6, 1880.

The following names is a list of pastors who have served the church up to the present time: Rev. S. N. Manning, 1853-54; Charles Spooner, 1854-65; J. L. Patton, 1866-90; J. N. Taft, 1890-93; A. M. Hyde, 1894-97; F. W. Hodgdon, 1897-99; A. B. Curtis, 1899-07; and James Halliday, 1907-11. Rev. S. C. Parsons was installed in 1911 and is the present pastor. This church has had a large place in community life, is broad in its doctrines, simple in creed, generous in benevolences, and belongs to the Lansing Association of Congregational Churches. It has a large, prosperous Sunday school, and an enthusiastic Young Peoples' Society. The Missionary Societies and the Ladies' Aid Society in connection with this church does a vast amount of good each year. The present membership of the church numbers three hundred and eighty.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF STANTON.

The First Congregational church of Stanton was organized on March 7, 1874, with the following charter members: Wealthy B. Vinecore, Lucille

V. Smith, Annah H. Camburn, Mary V. Daniel, Polly Gardner, Frances S. Gilbert, Kate C. W. Fenn, S. Marion Wood, Nora J. Shepard, Alfreda W. Paine, Harland P. Nevins, Alexander Vinecore, John M. Daniel, Levi Camburn and Harmon Smith. The first pastor to serve this congregation was Rev. George Michael. Others who have served up to the present time are: Levi P. Spellman, Wells H. Utley, Augustine G. Hubbard, William Clark Burns, John W. Savage, Philip E. Benen and Clarence W. Long. William Wedenhoeft is the present pastor. The services were at first held in the Baptist church, but within a year after the organization of the church a new building was under way. It is located at the corner of Camburn avenue and Bradford street. It is a neat frame structure, and the cost of construction is estimated at \$8,500. The chapel connected with the church building in the rear was erected in 1884. The parsonage is located at the corner of Lincoln avenue and Bradford street. In connection with this church is a good Sunday school, a Young Peoples' Society of Christian Endeavor, a Ladies' Aid Society, and a Home and Foreign Missionary Society. A Men's Uplift Club was organized in November, 1913, and is prospering rapidly. The present membership of the church is one hundred and sixteen.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SHERIDAN.

On April 9, 1877, a company of eleven persons met in a little, old, disused school house lighted with one hand lamp and two lanterns, to consider the advisability of purchasing the same for a place of worship. That evening the Congregational Society of Sheridan was formed. They decided to buy and repair the house. They enlarged the house, put in new windows and doors, painted inside and out, and made a cozy little chapel of it. About five months later, September 22, 1877, the First Congregational church was organized, consisting of eleven members, ten women and one man; and that man was Rev. J. T. Otis, who was ordained at that time. Reverend Otis labored for the church four years and a half. He was succeeded by Rev. O. B. Waters, who stayed one year. They felt they must go where their children could have better school advantages. Before they had taken their departure, Rev. J. W. Thrush, from Bristol, England, came to take up the work. He served the church for two and a half years.

The same week that Mr. Thrush resigned, a young man from Union Seminary, New York, came to preach, expecting to stay for a few weeks' vacation, but before the time was up, he discovered the field was needy and

large-enough for a whole-hearted Christian-minister. He felt his inability to do justice to such a field, which, he claimed, extended sixteen miles or more each way. Under his live, earnest effort, the Sunday school soon outgrew the little chapel. The next thing was to "seek after a sign," which was this: If the Lord increased the spiritual strength and number during the winter, he would take steps toward building a church. The sign was given. The church itself quickened and numbers increased as never before. "Let us arise and build." "Times were so hard it could not be done." It seemed an impossible undertaking. But the way the leader went to work, encouraged the rest to hope. He did not say, "I will not give sleep to mine eyes or slumber to mine eyelids until the thing is accomplished," neither did he advocate the eight-hour system, but he quietly went at it and managed to get in eight hours in the forenoon and eight in the afternoon almost every day after he began the work. Neither did he, like Solomon, choose out three score and ten thousand men to bear burdens. He put on overalls and rubber boots, took an axe and saw and started for the woods. After some hard work and discouragements the first hard battle was fought; twenty thousand feet of logs were on the banks of the lake ready for use. The Rubicon was passed and there was no backing down. Some said it could not be done, few thought it would ever be completed; only a very few faithful souls who knew something of the pastor's determination had faith in the enterprise; and they only because they faith in him.

He did not ask the people for money at the beginning; he knew it would be useless; they would have laughed at him—if not openly, in secret. He went on without asking help, except labor, put up and enclosed the building, put the roof on and put up the tower. The ladies came to the rescue in the meantime, sold ice cream, suppers, had socials and helped pay bills. Friends from abroad were appealed to for windows. The spirit manifested by the pastor, as day by day he labored with saw and hammer on the roof shingling during the hottest days, filled the members with zeal and courage.

Many were the prophecies of failure all along, but in spite of indifference, opposition and discouragements on every hand, the work went along, better always than was expected. More money was raised by one-half than it was thought it would take at the first. The roof is Gothic. The audience room is arched overhead and finished with brackets and panels in oak, oiled and varnished; it is wainscotted with oak, and the seats are of oak. The main room seats about two hundred people. The lecture room opening into the main room by folding doors, is provided with chairs and will seat about

two hundred more. The church complete cost about \$3,000, and was dedicated in March, 1888, free of debt. During the summer of 1888 a nice parsonage was erected, and in November the Rev. A. H. Claflin took his vacation. On his return, on November 25, he brought his bride with him. Mr. and Mrs. Claflin remained with the church until 1891. In 1892 the church became self supporting. Since that time the church has been served by the following pastors: Rev. C. L. Preston, J. E. Butler, O. M. Snyder, L. A. Kirkland, Fred Pinch, J. F. Lansborough, G. H. Alexander. F. H. Bridgewater is the present pastor of the church, and he has been here one year. The present membership is seventy-nine. Names of charter members: Rev. J. T. Otis, Emma Bean, Eliza Barnes, Sarah Holland, Mrs. J. T. Otis, Mrs. E. J. Barkham, Sarah Burton, Caroline Collins, Francis Monroe, H. H. Stoddard and Mary Summers. In connection with the church is conducted a Sunday school, which has three adult organized classes, one being a men's class. Nearly all classes in school are organized. Enrollment about one hundred and fifty. Average attendance during vacation season, over ninety, also have a cradle roll. This church is located in Evergreen township, section 31.

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CRYSTAL.

The Union Congregational church of Crystal was organized on May 13, 1877, with the following charter members: Edward W. Slack, Chauncey Case, B. S. Frisbie, William W. Naragan, Mary E. Case, John W. Coore, Dwight Demshu, N. T. Demshu, Henry Graf, J. C. Young, Maggie Fuller, Marian Champlin, Elizabeth Packard, Mrs. John Moore, Mrs. Alfred Fuller, Mrs. Rose Wright, R. S. Smith and Mary S. Fox.

At the initial meeting this religious society was incorporated and the following trustees chosen for the year following: Chauncey Case, B. S. Frisbie, A. L. Smith, W. W. Naragan, John P. Young.

Rev. N. L. Otis served the congregation as a first pastor and held this as his charge until it was thoroughly organized and on working basis. Since Reverend Otis officiated the following ministers have served this church: Rev. Robbins, D. A. Holman, S. S. Siebert, J. E. Tedford, George E. Brown, Lyon.

This church is located on section 17, township of Crystal.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LAKEVIEW.

The initial meeting of this church was held in 1880, with the following persons as members: A. B. Danforth, Mary A. Danforth, Estelles H. Danforth, Ella E. Danforth, William H. Winter, Mary E. Winter, John T. Jamieson, S. S. Parmer, Jehiel Chapin, Laura M. Chapin, Mary P. Reynolds, Lizzie N. Reynolds, Agnes M. Jamieson.

The next meeting was held in the Advent church at Lakeview, and the following elected trustees: H. B. Danforth, William H. Winter, John T. Jamieson, John Wood and Robert Edgar.

The first meetings of the church were held in the Grand Army of the Republic hall, with Rev. Charles Searer as the pastor. Now they have a very fine building, located at the corner of Lincoln and Fifth streets. It is constructed of veneered brick, at a cost of \$5,000. They have a Christian Endeavor League, and also prayer meetings throughout the week. The following is a list of pastors who have served the church from time to time: Burt, Riggs, William Klore, Campbell, Myers, Secord, Sherwood, Humphrey and Houston.

They now have a membership of eighty-eight.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEVINS LAKE.

The Congregational church of Nevins Lake, which is located in section 4 of Sidney township, was organized on March 11, 1906, with twenty charter members. On the 14th of October, 1903, articles of incorporation of a church society at Nevins Lake were filed, and the purpose of this association was given as desirous of co-operating with the First Congregational church of Stanton in maintaining a Sunday school and in supporting the preaching of the gospel at Nevins Lake chapel, a building which was to be used for any evangelical society as approved by the trustees of said society. The members present at this meeting were: G. E. Drake, Sylvia Kilpatrick, Emily Waters, Emily Kilpatrick, Susie A. Curtis, John C. Peterson, Minnie Mesler, D. L. Waters, Edna Curtis, Edna Kilpatrick, Agnes Disbro, Elsie E. Kilpatrick, E. W. Mesler, E. C. Lowry, John A. Nelson, Oscar E. Nelson, Frank Toleson and Andrew Fults.

The Nevins Lake church building was erected in 1903, at a cost of \$900. This congregation has been served by the following pastors: C. W. Long and William Wiedenhoft. The latter served this as a charge from

Stanton. The society at present supports a Sunday school and Ladies' Aid Society. The present membership numbers sixteen.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BUTTERNUT.

The First Congregational church of Butternut was organized on May 14, 1892, with thirty-three charter members, which are as follow: E. W. Johnson, Mrs. Emma Johnson, Mrs. Fanny Johnson, C. E. Chandler, Mrs. C. E. Chandler, Mrs. Nancy Cross, Mrs. Anna Bunnell, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Henty, John Ferry, Myron Slayton, H. H. Aldrich, Polly Aldrich, Jasper Aldrich, Isaac George, Mary E. Evans, Sarah Bellenger, Orren Myers, Mrs. Orrin Myers, Olive Mack, Eben Chandler, D. B. Patterson, Mrs. D. B. Patterson, Arviria Hively, Mary Martin, Alice Kipp, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wamsley, Mrs. Charlie Patrick. The first deacons of this church were E. W. Johnson, John Feary and D. B. Patterson; and the first trustees were Myron Slayton, Willis H. Wamsley and H. H. Aldrich. E. C. Henty served as the first clerk, and C. E. Chandler was the first treasurer. Rev. Isaac D. Lillie was the first pastor to serve the church, and the others that followed are: B. C. Robbins, I. A. Shanton, D. A. Halman, S. S. Seibert, J. E. Tedfore, George B. Brown, Walter Lyon and N. L. Otis.

At first the religious services were held in a hall in Butternut, but in 1899 a new building, constructed of brick, at a cost of \$2,500, was built on a site that was donated by Charles Cross and wife. This lot consisted of one-half acre, and in the year 1915 the congregation bought another half acre adjoining it for a parsonage, and they are fortunate to have paid for it already. An interesting Sunday school and Ladies' Aid Society are conducted under the auspices of the church. Rev. Burton D. Snook is the present pastor.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BLOOMER.

The society of the Congregational church of Bloomer was organized on June 3, 1872, at the house of T. B. Colton. Four years later a fine church building was erected and the growth of this church was very marked from this time. Rev. Samuel Sessions was the first pastor, and he served from 1872 to 1874. The charter members were as follow: B. G. Cooley, Sarah Cooley, F. B. Colton, H. Colton, H. M. Robinson, Jane Robinson, Maria Robinson, John Murray, Margaret Murray, H. G. Cooley, Mary E. Cooley, Abigail Barton, Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Sessions. The pastors who have

served this church are as follow: J. M. Smith, 1874-75; James G. Freeborn, 1875-76; George Candee, 1877-79; John Husted, 1879-81; R. A. Taylor, 1882-83; Darrell Lee, 1883; W. H. Skentlebury, 1885-88; John A. Kaley, 1889-90; David Kirkpatrick, 1890-92; I. A. Shanton, 1893-94; Clark C. Otis, 1894-95; E. W. Miller, 1896-97; Samuel S. Seibert, 1898-1900; N. J. Myers, 1901-04; George W. Dell, 1905-09; William Mitchell, 1910-12; W. L. Frost, 1913-14; J. L. Kennedy, 1914-15; and W. L. Frost is the present pastor. The church was rebuilt in 1902, at a cost of \$4,000. The present membership is sixty.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SIDNEY.

While Sidney had religious meetings from a very early date, there was no special denomination organized; but the first meetings held were conducted by Revs. Piper and Ezekiel Rossman, members of the United Brethren church, at the house of Henry Gilmore. A society was formed when the school house was built, and services held in it about a year. Then they were held in the log school house at the center. The society consisted of the following members: Joshua Noah and wife, Mrs. Van Ness, Roswell Gillmore and wife, John Ryan, Henry Gillmore and wife, Noble Gillmore and George Gillmore. There was no meeting house built, as the society was eventually broken up.

The Congregational church at Sidney was organized on June 10, 1890, with fourteen charter members. William Noah was chosen the first deacon, Mrs. Kittle was the first clerk, and she held this office for seventeen years. Rev. A. W. Claflin was the first minister, and he came from Sheridan to Sidney to conduct the meetings, which were held in a school house before the erection of the church. Reverend Claflin was instrumental in the building of this church, and the people of Sidney have ever been grateful to him for this act. It was built in 1887; the corner stone was laid in June and it was dedicated in January, 1889. Mr. Claflin left this church in charge of Rev. James E. Butler in the fall of 1891 and went to live in New York state. Rev. C. L. Preston took charge of the church when Rev. Butler went away, and then came Owen M. Snyder, Lemuel A. Kirkland, Fred Pinch, John Lansborough, G. H. Alexander and S. A. Bridgewater, who is the present pastor. On the 16th of June, 1887, the ladies of this church organized a Ladies' Aid Society, and this organization has been kept up to the present day. The church now has a membership of over forty.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EDMORE.

This church was organized under Rev. S. R. Roseborough, August 12, 1879. Previous to this time he had been conducting meetings in the school house. At the first meeting, held for the purpose of organizing a society, he enrolled the following names: S. R. Roseborough, Nathan Coleman, S. W. Whittlesey and wife, J. S. Sanford, Mrs. S. Hunt and Mrs. Coney. S. R. Roseborough, Nathan Coleman, and S. W. Whittlesey were the first trustees, and J. S. Sanford was the clerk. Rev. Roseborough only stayed about one year when he was succeeded by Rev. Henry Marsh, under whose efforts the society erected a neat and substantial place of worship which cost about \$2,000.

The following is a list of the pastors who have served this church since the organization: George W. Riggs, Ira W. Bell, Carlson, A. D. Whaley, William Wert, J. C. Gibson, E. F. Gray, B. H. Petton and H. Scarlett.

There has been quite a change made in the building which consisted in the addition of a kitchen, two dining rooms, a reading room and furnace room in the basement of the church. The value of the church property at present is placed at \$3,500. The membership at present numbers thirty-two, with a very active Sunday school of about sixty members. It is interesting to note that Rev. Henry March served this congregation for fifteen years.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GREENVILLE.

The meeting for the organization of the First Baptist church of Greenville was held on November 10, 1853, at the school house located on the corner of Lafayette and Cass streets. Rev. J. Rasco was chosen moderator of the assembly, H. P. Downs, clerk, and the names of twenty-six members were placed upon the church records. In September, 1854, the organization became a part of the Grand River Baptist Association. The church at this time embraced but six male members. Great difficulty was experienced at this early period in obtaining a suitable place of worship, and for a considerable time it was not possible to maintain regular appointments. Finally an old store belonging to M. Rutan was secured which was fitted up and used until 1865, when the services were held in the Congregational church for about a year.

On February 10, the church dedicated its own house of worship at the corner of Washington and Franklin streets. In 1887 the church was rebuilt

and rededicated. The pastors of the church have been Rev. J. Roscoe, 1853-55; A. P. Howell, 1855-57. Mr. S. D. Ross, a member of the church, supplied, and was ordained as pastor on November 28, 1857. He remained until the advent of Rev. Prescott in 1862, and in 1864 Rev. A. Platt was summoned to the charge. In February, 1865, Rev. Dr. Drummond supplied the pulpit, until Rev. D. E. Hills became pastor, who remained until 1868. Rev. C. E. B. Armstrong was called in 1870, and the same year a parsonage was secured. The resignation of Reverend Armstrong occurred in 1874, when Rev. E. Curtis succeeded. His pastoral labor extended over a period of six years, and Rev. Jay Huntington began his labors in May, 1880. The pastors which followed are John E. Gault, Marcus E. Hayne, 1884; L. D. Bass, 1889; E. Talbot Carter, 1890; D. E. Hills, 1891, Charles E. Barker, 1897; William H. Garfield, 1900; J. H. Stuart, 1904; F. A. Lankin, 1907; L. D. Pettit, 1911. W. Bernard Jarman was called in 1915.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF STANTON.

The society of the First Baptist church of Stanton was organized under the supervision of Rev. H. E. W. Palmer, October 25, 1866. H. E. W. Palmer, Cornelia H. Palmer, Nancy Davis, G. F. Case and Mary E. Case constituted the first organization. Mr. Palmer was elected pastor, G. F. Case, clerk, and David Morse, G. F. Case, and J. P. Beers, trustees. The following pastors have served the congregation since its organization: H. E. W. Palmer, John Van Vleck, E. Curtis, A. W. Hendricks, C. N. Burnham, C. C. Miller, J. W. Henry, E. Chesney, F. H. Young, Eugene Reverance, H. McGrath, George W. Bates, E. M. Parsons and F. E. Britten who is the present pastor.

The church, which was constructed of wood, at a cost of \$3,000, was the first place of worship in the village. It was constructed in 1868 and dedicated on January 3, 1869. Elder Van Vleck was pastor at this time, and he together with A. E. Mather and S. B. Fish conducted the dedicatory services. The lot upon which it stands was donated by George F. Case. The church membership now numbers eighty-three and the Sunday school in connection with this church has a membership of seventy-seven. The young people have organized a Baptist Young People's Union and have a membership of twenty-four. The Bethel Mission Sunday school conducted under the auspices of this church has a membership of fifty-seven.

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH.

The First Free Will Baptist church society was organized by Revs. William H. Smith and D. H. Lord, at a meeting held in the school house at

Howard City, on the evening of May 3, 1874, and its original members were named as follows: David H. Lord, Samuel J. Pulsifer, Arthur Scott, Eugene L. Brown, Annetta M. Lord, Arvilla A. Pulsifer, Electa Scott, Louisa Lord, Helen P. Pulsifer, Emma Strong and Ellen Hickok. S. G. Hickok joined soon after. Rev. David H. Lord remained in charge six years. He preached the first sermon in Howard City in the waiting room of the depot in 1870. The society continued to meet at the school house during the summer, but soon afterwards David H. Lord built a house twenty-four by thirty feet which cost over \$500, where they held their meetings for a time and now constitutes a vestry of the church.

In the spring of 1875 the society commenced the body of a brick building thirty-six by fifty-five feet. It is a substantial and commodious building and cost about \$2,000. It was dedicated on May 30, 1880, by Ransom Dunn, D. D., of Hillsdale, and at that time a collection was taken amounting to \$500 which cleared the society from debt. In the month of May, 1870, the first Sabbath school was organized in Reynolds in the dining room of the small hotel kept by William Edmondson. On the first day of meeting there was an attendance of seventeen scholars. Rev. David H. Lord was superintendent and assisted principally by Mrs. William F. Thompson, who named it the "Star of Hope" Sabbath school. After meeting at the hotel a few times the place of meeting was changed to a little carpenter shop owned by Samuel J. Pulsifer, which was so cold in the winter time that they again resorted to the hotel. This shop was also at times used as a meeting house. In the summer of the next year Amos R. Mather became the teacher of the first Bible class organized in Reynolds. This Sabbath school was the germ of the Union Sabbath school, which was well attended until two churches were erected, when it was divided.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOWARD CITY.

The First Baptist church society was organized on February 16, 1873, by Rev. N. Stillwell, whose efforts had brought the friends together. He preached to this circle every alternate Sabbath. The society built a church, but apparently they were not entirely successful as their meetings were soon discontinued. It was not long, however, before it was reorganized by J. J. Martin, and the following officers were elected: C. V. Howe, deacon; C. Walling, clerk; A. A. Edburge, treasurer; trustees, E. Simmons, V. Skid, E. Edburge, E. Halleck. The following August Rev. J. R. Monroe was called to the pastorate. During this year sixteen members were added to the

church. The next pastor was Reverend Spencer, who was followed in January, 1877, by A. W. Walterman. Fourteen members were added during the following year, of which two remain, Mr. Edbergh and Mrs. Walling.

Rev. J. J. Monroe came to the church in 1878 and was ordained here on July 2, of that year. The next year the church was reorganized, but the record of the following ten years was destroyed in the fire of 1889, so a part of this history is taken from memory rather than record. However, the following pastors served in order: Rev. Mr. Frazier, Charles Baker, J. Spooner, Mr. Service, Charles Oldfield, Reverend Welker began a good work but his health failed him and he died shortly after leaving the field. Rev. G. A. Ames came to the field on October 1, 1890, and continued two and one-half years. A Rev. Miller supplied the pulpit three months and then Rev. Charles Oldfield again served the church. In August, 1893, Bro. A. M. Conklin was granted a license to preach. He made the best of his opportunities and rendered the denomination a true service. He is now a field worker in the White River Association, where he has built five churches. Rev. William Templemen was called to the church in May, 1898, and remained a year and a half. Rev. J. H. Carstens came in March, 1900, and served acceptably one year. The church was then closed for much needed repairs. In the latter part of July, 1901, a call was extended Rev. W. H. Belfry to become pastor. It was accepted and he is now on the field.

There is not time or space to tell the story of the heroic effort and sacrifice that has made and preserved this organization. Great credit is due J. R. Abbott, Mrs. C. A. Vandenberg and others who have for so many years carried the burden of responsibility and given their time and service. There are now twenty-two members in the church. A spirit of unity prevails and the finances are in a satisfactory condition. Services are held every Sunday both morning and evening, and prayer meeting every Thursday night. All are fairly well attended. The Baptist church in belief does not differ materially from some others. They accept the Bible as the inspired word of God. They believe in the ordinances which are instituted in the New Testament and none others. They have no creed, no catechism, nothing to subscribe to except faith in Christ and in his teaching. They are independent in government and preach a full gospel.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GOWEN.

The First Baptist church of Gowen was organized in 1880 with Rev. N. P. Barlon serving as first pastor. The church is a neat frame building

constructed in 1880 at a cost of \$1,500. The following named pastors have officiated up to the present time: N. P. Barlon, Mr. Osgood, Mr. Callahan, Cole Van Gandt and A. J. Niles. Rev. C. M. Baker is the present pastor. The church was reorganized in February, 1909, by Mr. Hudson, a state missionary. Their present membership numbers seventeen.

BAPTIST CHURCH OF ENTRICAN.

The Entrican Baptist church was organized on April 15, 1882, with the following charter members: Samuel and Margaret Steele, Charles and Martha Blumberg, G. W. Evans and wife, Catherine Lamb, Simon Cummins and wife, Era Steele, Julia Steele, Effie Van Patten, Harrison Cummins, Hulbert Brooks and Lizzie Lamb. A. H. Parsons was the first pastor, and Rev. J. Bennett is now the pastor in charge. Other pastors are: Rev. Chumey, Dannam, H. Bennett, F. Youngs, Phillips, Schoonhoven, Gates, C. Sherwood, Sharp, Ellis and H. W. Powell. The first church building was dedicated on December 30, 1886, and was burned down in August, 1909. But in 1911 a new and more convenient building took its place. It is located in Douglass township in section 9, and is constructed of cement blocks at a cost of \$15,000. There are thirty members that belong to this church, who also take part in making an interesting Sunday school and Ladies' Aid Society.

BAPTIST CHURCH OF BLOOMER.

The first meeting of the Baptist church society was held at the house of William Everest, in the year 1856. It was organized under the direction of Elder John Van Black, with the following persons as members: William Everest and wife, Milton Baldwin and wife, Hiram Hunt and wife, Theodore Everest and wife. The meetings were held in the school house on section 26 for a number of years. The one on section 10 afterward became the place of worship, after which Carson City became the place finally chosen. A fine church, costing about \$3,000, was built in 1876.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF GREENVILLE.

At the session of the Michigan conference in 1850, Rev. Eli Westlake and Rev. Rufus C. Crane were appointed to Flat River circuit, then comprising parts of Ionia, Allegan, and Kent counties, and Fairplain in Montcalm county. They took an appointment in Greenville in the fall, and in

January following, Rev. R. C. Crane commenced a series of special services in Fairplain, which resulted in the organization of a Methodist society in February, 1851. The meetings were held in a school house then standing on the corner of Lafayette and Call streets. Among the first members were D. C. Moore and wife, George Loucks and wife, Dr. James Chamberlain and wife, R. K. Moore and wife, A. R. Adams and wife, Levi Makley and wife, Erastus Fisher and wife, and Mrs. Burgess. The first board of trustees was organized in April, 1851, and at once took steps towards erecting a church upon a lot donated to the society by John Green. The ground was situated on Cass street. James Kent and D. C. Moore were also active in the work. George Loucks and Rev. R. C. Crane were appointed a committee to proceed with the erection of the church, and it was completed in the autumn of 1851. It was made of wood and located on the lot next to the present parsonage on the west. During the pastorate of Rev. A. R. Boggs this building was moved to the corner of Cass and Franklin streets and considerably enlarged and other additions were made during the incumbency of J. W. Reid. In 1888, during the pastorate of Rev. Louis Grosenbough, the old building was removed to make way for the present edifice which is a very fine brick building and which was constructed at a cost of \$30,000.

A list of pastors in order of service follows: Rufus C. Crane, Noah Fassett, A. R. Bartlett, A. Wakefield, George Bignall, A. A. Dunton, Francis Glass, W. F. Jenkins, J. L. Child, W. W. Rorke, J. W. Dayton, G. S. Barnes, W. M. Colby, W. J. Aldrich, A. R. Boggs, J. W. Reid, A. A. Brown, Delos Cronk, G. D. Lee, Louis Grosenbaugh, F. C. Lee, W. L. Davison, Addis Albro, R. S. McGregor, A. F. Hart, W. F. Kendrick, Joseph Dutton, Louis De Lanarter and Thomas Cox. The first board of trustees was composed of the following persons: George Loucks, Adam Loucks, William Wells, James Chamberlain and Rufus K. Moors. The Sunday school was organized in 1855, with William Van Loo, J. L. Rook, and Elias Kent as the first superintendents. John Lewis became superintendent in 1866, and remained in office until 1875 when he was succeeded by O. W. Green for two years. A. H. Bennett then took charge for a period of two years, and M. O. Griswold for one year, when A. H. Bennett was again elected. The attendance was small at the beginning, and many of the appliances for successful Sunday school work were meager. The school struggled on through the years gradually improving in numbers and resources until it now has a membership of four hundred scholars. An Epworth League, composed of fifty members, a Home and Foreign Missionary Society and Ladies' Aid Society, are auxiliaries of this church and do a vast amount of good each year.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF CORAL.

In 1861 there was organized in Maple Valley the first Methodist Episcopal church society together with the first Sabbath school. In 1862 the first class was organized with the following members: E. J. Blanding and wife, E. R. Ferguson and wife, Martin Phillips and wife, Thomas Plum and wife, James Ferguson and wife, J. B. Reed and wife. The first minister was Rev. J. H. Tanner who was assisted by Rev. John Graham. Reverends Fry, Deitz, Johns and Saunders are among the early itinerants. The first class leaders were E. J. Blanding and E. R. Ferguson.

In the year 1873, after many struggles, a class was organized at Coral by a local preacher by the name of Montrose. The place of worship was in a small school house located on the site where Park House now stands. The circuit was then connected with the Big Rapids district. On February 1, 1873, Presiding Elder Peck sent J. W. Fassett to take charge of the work. In April of that year an organ was secured. A Sunday school was organized. Uncle Henry and Aunt Hannah Holcomb opened their doors for services. Soon after the school moved to the hall over D. L. Shook's dry-goods store. A great uplift came to the society upon the arrival of Brothers Robinson and Oaks, both earnest Methodists, from Detroit. Mr. Robinson was closely identified with the interests of the church. The society now felt that an edifice should be erected. Philip and John Holcomb gave the building site. Hart-Oaks Company gave \$300 and all the members and friends were a unit to push the enterprise along. W. W. Robinson was appointed class leader and Sunday school superintendent and W. R. Holcomb was made steward.

At the end of the conference year, 1873, Coral was united with the Pierson circuit. J. W. Hollowell was appointed pastor and lived at Pierson. Under his pastorate revival meetings were held and pastoral work carefully attended to. Temperance work progressed and a Womens' Central Temperance League was organized. The church was furnished with stoves, collection boxes, chairs, hymnals and Bibles. In January, 1874, the church was dedicated. Dr. Jocelyn, of Albion College, preached the dedicatory sermon. In April, Rev. S. W. LaDu, of the Bay Quinte conference, of Canada, came here with his family and from that time on the history of his life has been the history of the circuit, a man of God whose heart burned with the love for souls and a tower of strength to the cause of Christ for twenty-five years.

Rev. W. I. Cogshall was sent here as pastor in 1874 and remained for two years. The church prospered under his administration. The church was blessed with a great revival in 1875. In 1876 the district conference was held here. Rev. John Glover followed Mr. Cogshall and was with the church for one year. In this year Coral was set off from the Pierson circuit and was made a circuit of Ionia district. During this year Windfield, Trufant and Maple Valley were organized into classes by Rev. S. W. LaDu. Rev. G. A. Buell, an earnest devoted minister of the Gospel, served the circuit for two years. The church was improved by an altar and pews were put in, the tower completed and the church decorated with a coat of paint. The years 1878 and 1879 were supplied by Rev. S. W. LaDu who had associated with him as assistant pastor Rev. J. C. Beach. In 1878 the parsonage building was purchased. During 1882 and 1883, Rev. D. S. Haviland served as pastor to the great profit of the charge. In 1884 and 1885 J. W. Davids, a brother beloved by the whole community, was sent here and lost his wife while here. The charge enjoyed prosperity under his pastorate.

The following ministers have served: 1886-87, W. R. Pierce; 1887-88, J. R. Bowen; 1888-89, S. W. LaDu; 1889-90, Mr. Wyant; 1890-91, N. S. Gibbs; 1891-92 (part of the year supplied by S. W. LaDu) J. W. Sutton; 1892-93, S. W. LaDu (during whose term the annex was built, the church repaired, repainted and plastered at an expense of nearly \$700); 1893-94, S. E. Tiny; 1894-95, J. L. Tower; 1895-96, J. C. Dietrick; 1896-98, William Judd; 1898-1902, D. E. Reed; 1902-1904, A. P. Moors; 1904-1905, O. E. Wightman; 1905-1906, W. W. Chatfield; 1906-1907, Fred Deighton; 1907-February 1, S. McDonald; 1907-1909, Frank James; 1909-1910, W. H. Holcomb; 1910-1911, E. L. Prentice; 1911-1913, Carl Critchet; 1913-1914, J. W. VanGundy; 1914-1916, Charles Ostrom.

In 1896, during Mr. Judd's pastorate, Coral and Howard City were united. In November, 1898, the board of trustees decided upon some church improvements. The church was papered, a bell was placed in the tower, shed built, roof repaired, class room painted, new carpet put down, together with minor improvements, all at an expense of \$400. Following was a great religious awakening in which more than sixty sought God. The spiritual interest has continued, culminating in a wonderful ten-days tent meeting now closing. The Coral Methodist Episcopal church has grown from a small society to a strong progressive evangelistic missionary church with bright hopes for the future.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF M'KINLEY.

The Coral circuit of the Methodist Episcopal church includes the church at McKinley which is located in Maple Valley township in section 20. This is locally known as the McKinley Memorial church and was organized in 1869 with the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. R. Taylor, Mrs. James Banks, Mr. Banks, William Fries, Mrs. Hinchman, Mr. and Mrs. Wright and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Wiseman. The services were first held in the school house of Maple Valley, section 29. Among the first pastors who served this church were the Reverends Johns, Saunders, Cogshall, Beach, Buell, Davids, Pierce, Bowen, Gibbs, Haviland.

This church society was re-organized on January 20, 1902. The present building was dedicated on December 28, 1902. This is a plain frame building which was erected at a cost of \$1,200. This congregation has a membership of twenty-two at present and has a good Sunday school with an average attendance of thirty and also a thriving Ladies' Aid Society. With one or two exceptions this church has been connected with Coral as a charge.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF TRUFANT.

The Coral circuit also includes the Trufant Methodist Episcopal church. This is located in the village and was organized on February 11, 1901, with the following charter members: Ester Emery, Anna Idens, Estella Duvoo, Mary Heath, Olive Simpson, Louisa Pierce, Iva Force, George Force, I. T. Simpson and Mabel Timmerson. This society first met in what was locally known as the old "Red Ribbon Hall." This church has been attached to the Coral circuit and served by the ministers of that place. The membership at present numbers eleven. A Sunday school and Ladies' Aid Society are active auxiliaries of this society.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF HEMMINGWAY.

Hemmingway derives its name from an inland lake at which was located a saw-mill connected with a large general store, postoffice, telegraph office, branch railroad, and many small boarding houses that usually follow such a business. Some of the enterprising citizens saw the need of religious worship in the town, and in the year 1882 a Union Sunday school was organized and services were conducted occasionally as it was convenient to do so.

They were held in a board shanty near by. It was soon found that a much larger and better building was needed, and a subscription paper was circulated to raise funds to build a new church. The people were loyal to the cause, and the work commenced, and a neat, small church was completed, situated on section 18, township of Day. It was dedicated as a Union church by Rev. J. L. Patton of Greenville in the year 1884, and retained its local name. In 1895 the Rev. J. W. Davids, of Stanton, effected a new organization under the name Methodist Episcopal Church of Hemmingway. There were only ten charter members. They have a present membership of forty, and their present building is a frame structure erected at a cost of \$1,000. A list of pastors who have served this church is as follows: J. W. Davids, Jones, Valentine, Wightman, Moore, Parsons, Frye, Pollock, Nichols, Bready, James, Hill, McDonald, Critchett and Johnson. The present pastor is Rev. Cramer.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF EDMORE.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Edmore was organized in 1878 by Charles B. Voorhees, who also served as the first pastor. The church building was erected in 1884 under the supervision of Rev. D. C. Reihle. It was constructed of wood at a cost of \$2,200. A list of pastors who have labored for this church are as follow: Charles B. Voorhees, T. B. Miller, A. T. Gray, R. H. Bready, W. W. Oldham, J. W. Rawlinson, D. C. Reihle, J. Gulick, O. J. Golden, W. J. Wilson, Samuel S. How, A. C. Carman, A. C. Parsons, E. W. Davis, U. E. Partridge, M. A. Oldt, A. H. Viner, J. H. Cornelius, Irving Eagle, George Traver, A. E. North and W. H. Holcomb. The membership is fifty.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF M'BRIDE.

The Methodist Episcopal church of McBride was organized about the year 1875. This church together with the Methodist church at Edmore forms a circuit which is served by Rev. W. H. Holcomb. It was organized by Charles B. Voorhees. The present building is a frame structure, built in 1885 at a cost of \$1,800. Rev. D. C. Reihle, who was pastor at that time, supervised the work. The pastors who have this church are the same as those of the Methodist church at Edmore. The total number of members is fifty-two.

FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF LAKEVIEW.

The First Methodist Episcopal church of Lakeview was organized in September, 1873, at the school house, under the supervision of Rev. N. H. Hall, who also served as the first minister. It was only six years before the people decided to build a church, and the lot was donated to them by M. French. The building cost about \$2,200 and was dedicated in 1880. There were only ten charter members as follow: Oscar Kilborn and wife, David Kilborn and wife, J. H. Covey and wife, L. L. Bissell and wife, and R. P. Everett and wife. A list of pastors who have served this church since its organization is here given: H. M. Hall, Jacob Marzolf, J. H. Thomas, William Judd, D. S. Haviland, G. K. Fairbank, C. H. Jacokes, George Haight, J. W. Sutton, George Stinchcomb, W. D. Rowland, Fred G. Dunbar, C. T. Van Antwerp, L. B. Kenyon, W. Mooney, John Delong, A. E. Tower, C. W. Holden, and N. M. Pritchard, who is the present pastor. The church has grown steadily until it now has reached a membership of ninety-two. In connection with the church is conducted a good Sunday school, an Epworth League, and a Ladies' Aid Society. The Ladies' Aid Society started about thirty years ago, with only seven members. The society is now doing some repair work on the church and a new furnace is also to be installed.

FIRST FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF GREENVILLE.

The first attempt made to organize a congregation of the Free Methodist church society was launched on February 23, 1892. This meeting is rather obscure and the only evidence we have is the filing of articles of incorporation with D. C. Wolverton, Albert Day and Gilbert Hadley acting as the board of trustees. Nothing of importance came of this meeting and no more definite form was taken.

The next effort to organize a society of this faith was the following year when a board of trustees was elected, as follows: Abner Reed, Joseph Palmer and D. C. Wolverton. It is very apparent that this was merely a continuation of the first effort to establish a society of the Free Methodist faith as the name of D. C. Wolverton is found serving as a trustee for both years. This society soon ceased to exist and the next step was not taken to form a society or rather to organize a congregation until September 20, 1905.

This society was incorporated with the following charter members: Bessie Brown, Arville Brown, Lucy Rowland, Ada Andeson, May Loper, Henry Wycoff, Charles Loper, Nels Johnson, all of Greenville, and Ellen

Burns, of Belding. The first pastor to serve this newly organized society was W. H. Jury and the first meetings were held in a hall in the downtown district. Since the last organization this church has had a rather prosperous existence. The membership has increased from time to time and it is an earnest, busy little congregation. There is also a Sunday school as an auxiliary to the church. The present building is located on Pine street and is constructed of cement blocks. Some of the pastors who have served this church are as follow: W. H. Jury, F. W. Smith, C. G. Miller, G. W. Weidman, C. A. Callup, J. A. Linscott, A. A. Thompson, S. A. Whitmore and the present incumbent, Mary J. Finch.

FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF LAKEVIEW.

The Free Methodist church was organized in Lakeview in the fall of the year 1887 under the pastorate of Rev. M. Gilfrin, with a membership of seven, some of whom are still alive. Following are the names of the charter members: George Perkins and wife, William Clements and wife, Mr. Swear, Mrs. Hester Gaffield and Mrs. Mary Jensen. In its infancy it had a hard struggle for existence, but moved steadily onward; its growth has not been fast nor has it attained a very large size, but its members have stood stanchly for righteousness and truth, and many have finished their work and gone to their reward. For some time they met in private houses, principally at George Perkins, until they rented a store building on the outlet of Tamarack lake where the furniture factory now stands. A few months later they removed to a store building owned by Frank Perkins, where they remained until deprived of a home by the fire of 1894. They then worshipped in private houses until in 1900, when under the labors of Rev. J. A. Linscott the present building was erected. It is a good substantial building of brick veneer located in section 9, of Cato township 12 north, range 8 west. It has a present membership of twenty-five and a good prosperous Sunday school.

HENKEL GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH.

The first German church in this vicinity was the one built a mile west of the line in Pierson township, two and one-half miles south of Howard City. It was built about twenty-one years ago, Henry Henkel donating the site and assisting materially in the building of the church by furnishing the lumber, shingles, etc. Mr. Henkel, Fred Fahner, and William Rader were the building committee, and others of the substantial German farmers of that

vicinity assisted in promoting its prosperity. Rev. Henry Utt was the pastor in charge when the edifice was built.

Previous to that time meetings were held in the brick school house at Maple Hill, and also at an old log school house which used to stand on the corner, in front of Henry Henkel's home. Rev. Charles Staffeld practiced there quite a time, making his home at Mr. Henkel's. Rev. S. Henne, remembered having held meetings in the old log school house there over thirty years ago, before the completion of the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad, when he was a circuit rider living at Hersey, traveling from one lumber camp to another on horseback.

This church was formerly the German Evangelical Association but in later years was gradually transformed into the Methodist faith and now is known as the German Methodist. Reverend Schmidt is the present pastor. Other pastors who have served this charge are as follow: Reverends Henry Utt, John Miller, Bogan, Frey, Dill and Hess.

ST. PAUL'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF GREENVILLE.

St. Paul's Episcopal church was organized on January 20, 1872, with the following membership: William B. Wells, Willard N. Pettee, John Avery, C. Jesse Church, Talmadge Stevens, Ephraim Williams and L. Judd McComber. The first communion celebrated in the parish was held on Easter Day, March 31, 1872, and on this occasion there were sixteen communicants. The first meeting of the parish was held on the same day when the following vestry were elected: W. B. Wells, C. Jesse Church, L. Judd McComber, James Cornwell, Andrew W. Hoffman, John Avery and Willard N. Pettee. At the first vestry meeting W. B. Wells was elected senior warden, and C. Jesse Church, junior warden and treasurer. A Sunday school was organized on Sunday, April 28, 1872, with W. B. Wells, superintendent; Mrs. S. R. Stevens, secretary, and Mrs. L. Judd McComber, treasurer. Several teachers were installed to take charge of the work. While the parish was a mission the congregation were under the ministrations of Reverends Morris and Wood. Later followed Rev. Sidney H. Woodford, 1872-74; W. H. Sparling, 1880; E. W. Flower, 1881-83; E. J. Babcock, 1884; E. G. Nock; Joseph W. Bancroft; J. N. Rippey, 1890-98; Thomas H. Henley; Thomas Beeson, 1899-1902; F. C. O'Meara, 1903; W. M. Warlow, M. A., 1905; J. Taylor Chambers; Harvey Bush, Ph. D., 1909-10; Floyd Keeler, M. A., B. P., 1911; Robert B. Evatt was chosen rector in 1913 and has served up to the present time.

The society owns its own guild hall and the church edifice which is located on the corner of Cass and Clay streets, and is entirely free from debt. All the usual activities are maintained in an energetic way and there are continual additions to the membership. The church buildings, exclusive of lots on which they stand, are rated as worth \$5,000.

CHURCH OF CHRIST OF PIERSON.

This society was organized by Elder E. H. Brooks, and the following names were enrolled: Alfred Driskell, Sally Driskell, Sarah Goodwell, Alvin P. Stringham, John Boyer, John F. Carr, Albert Stringham, Daniel Boyer, Catharine Boyer, Maria Miller, Emily Williams, Laura Parker, Henry Lewis, Sarah M. Lewis, Elizabeth Brown, Mary Gokey, Lucretia E. McHenry, Sarah J. Holcomb, Socrates Sheldon, Henry Pomeroy, Mary J. Webster, Erepta Gates and Electa Brackbill. Albert Stringham was elected first pastor and served the congregation for many years.

DUNKARD CHURCH OF CRYSTAL.

The Church of United Brethren or Dunkard church is located in Crystal township, at the southeast corner of the cemetery in section 20. It was organized on August 15, 1901, with the following charter members, namely: George E. Stone, Matilda Stone, Samuel Bolinger, Watson Towsley, Viola Towsley, Jacob Witter, J. Easterday, Emanuel Bolinger, Margaret Bolinger, John Bolinger, Sarah Bolinger, Valentine Babcock, Ella Babcock, Sarah Roger, Margaret Shiveley, Nancy Johnson, Wilford Roose, S. E. Marsh and Orlando Henry. Just one year after the dedication of the first church, this society suffered a great misfortune. Their new church was burned to the ground. It is thought the fire caught from the chimney, but they kept up their brave spirit and again decided to build. This was a frame building, and was completed in the spring of 1903, at a cost of \$1,500. Since the organization of this church it was divided, and another church started at Vestaburg; but despite this fact it has a membership of forty-eight. George E. Stone is the present Elder; S. Bolinger and Carl Young also served this church.

DUNKARD CHURCH OF VESTABURG.

The United Brethren church of Vestaburg is situated in Richland township on section 23. This society was organized in 1907 with fifteen charter

members, and now their membership has just doubled. Samuel Bolinger, M. M. Bolinger and Joseph Robinson have been pastors of this church and have done much to keep the interest alive and to keep it going generally. The church is a neat little building of stone veneering, which was built in 1907 at a cost of \$1,000.

DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GREENVILLE.

St. Paul's Danish Lutheran church was organized at Greenville with Th. N. Jersild as the first pastor. R. Bennesen, and P. H. Miller have served since that time and W. C. Nielsen is now the pastor. The church is now supported by eighty members. A Young People's Society and a Ladies' Aid Society is conducted in connection with this church, as are also two Sunday schools, Danish and English. The Danish Sunday school has been long established, but the English was started but a short time ago and now has a membership of fifty. Both are steadily increasing. The church building is a brick structure, built about 1875, and in 1911 a fine basement, which affords many additional conveniences, was added to the church.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LITTLE DANISH SETTLEMENT.

Bethania Danish Evangelical Lutheran church was organized in the Little Danish Settlement about 1878 and H. J. Petersen was the first pastor. This church is also in the Greenville circuit and is served by the Danish pastor at Greenville, W. C. Nielsen. In 1880, a frame structure was put up at a cost of \$1,500, and this building is still used for church purposes. A Ladies' Aid Society is conducted with this church and the ladies meet once a month for this purpose. The church has a present membership of fifty. The following pastors have served this church: H. J. Petersen, N. Thompson, Th. Jersild, R. Bennesen and P. H. Miller.

DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TRUFANT.

St. Thomas's Danish Evangelical Lutheran church was organized in 1879, with H. J. Petersen officiating as the first pastor. The first trustees were Lars Rasmussen, Carl Christensen and H. P. Larsen, and they also were the sole charter members. The first building was a wood structure but for various reasons most of the religious meetings were held in the school house. The present church was built in 1892 at a cost of \$4,000, and in 1909 it was

enlarged considerably as it was found that their work could not be carried on as they wished in such limited quarters. The side additions built on are sixteen by twenty-six feet, and the main part of the church is twenty-six by fifty feet. In connection with this church is a Sunday school, a Women's Society, Young People's Society, and a Heathen Missionary Society. These societies are composed of earnest and untiring workers, and altogether present a very busy atmosphere. The church membership numbers two hundred and fifty. A list of pastors who have served the church up to the present time is as follow: H. J. Petersen, N. Thomsen, R. Nielsen, H. C. Strandskov, Th. Jersild, I. Soe, Mr. Borggaard, L. H. Kjer. Chr. Petersen is the present pastor.

DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF FAIRPLAIN.

St. Peter's Danish Evangelical Lutheran church, which is located in Fairplain township, was organized in the year 1876, with H. J. Petersen as the first pastor. A frame building was built in 1877 at a cost of \$600, and in connection is a shelter for the horses. The pastors who have served this church are as follow: H. J. Petersen, N. Thomsen, H. C. Strandskov, R. Nielsen, Th. N. Jersild, R. Bemmesen, P. H. Miller. W. C. Nielsen is the present pastor. This church is in a circuit composed of Greenville, Little Danish Settlement, and Fairplain, and are all served by W. C. Nielsen, of Greenville. The present membership is fifty.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN IMMANUEL CONGREGATION OF HOWARD CITY.

This congregation was organized in Howard City on April 19, 1893, by G. Wendlandt, August Siebart, William Littman and about ten others. These few members assumed the burden and responsibility of putting up a church and school building combined. A lot was purchased on the hill in the south part of the village, the edifice erected and it was dedicated on July 2, 1893. The congregation grew rapidly and now numbers one hundred and ninety-five souls. The dedication was under the direction of Rev. F. W. Geffert, the local pastor at that time. Mr. Geffert left here on July 4, 1897, to go to Reed City, and was succeeded by Rev. H. H. Heidel, who came on August 10 of the same year.

In January, 1898, it was decided to build a parsonage. The work was undertaken at once and a very pretty parsonage was completed in November of the same year, the congregations at Turk Lake and in Cato township

assisting in the furnishing of stone for the foundations. No aid from those outside the church was asked.

Paul C. Noffze served this congregation from 1903 to 1907 and then H. E. Norden took charge of the work. Reverend Norden now resides at Muskegon. The present incumbent is Carl Oztman, who has had charge since 1909. The secular school of this church was maintained with approximately thirty pupils for quite a number of years, but owing to the fact that many of the families of this congregation moved away, it was decided to abandon the daily school but the spirit of this enterprise was kept alive by meetings at regular intervals. Every two weeks an all-day meeting of the children is held. These meetings are classes held on Saturday and under the supervision of the minister. At present these meetings are attended by forty pupils.

The Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel church of Howard City is very active; the membership at present is one hundred and ninety-five. The church and parsonage are kept in excellent repair. This society is free from debt and is prospering.

TURK LAKE GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SOCIETY.

Turk Lake was the first congregation of this society organized in Montcalm county. This church is located in Montcalm township and although served by the pastor of the Howard City Immanuel congregation it is the strongest society of this faith in the county. The history of this church, however, is closely connected with that of the Howard City church and has always been served as a charge from the latter congregation and can truly be classed along with the former church. As was previously mentioned, this is one of the strongest congregations of the county, having a membership at present of two hundred.

There are two other societies of the German Evangelical Lutheran congregation in the county. One of these is located in Cato township. There is no church building at present, but services are held in the school building of district No. 4. This society has a membership at present of sixty-five and in all probabilities will have a building in the course of the next few years. Greenville is the most recently organized society in the county. There are at present at the latter place thirty-five souls enrolled in this work.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MAPLE HILL.

The German Evangelical Lutheran church of Maple Hill was founded somewhere back in 1885. Rev. W. Bauer of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, being the first pastor in charge. He was succeeded in 1888 by Reverend Greuter, of the Evangelical Synod, of North America. The church was struck by lightning and burned in 1889 and was rebuilt in that same year.

In 1891 Rev. H. Greuter resigned, and the congregation called as pastor, Rev. F. W. Geffett, of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, who then took charge of the congregation in 1891. In 1894 some difficulties arose about the moving of the church building (which was then some two and one-half miles southeast of Howard City) into Howard City. Those of the congregation living in town were in favor, together with their pastor, of moving the church to town; those living in the country were opposed. This caused separation; the church remained out in the country and the Germans of Howard City remained in town.

Then 1894 Rev. H. Schaarschmidt of the German Evangelical Synod of North America, took charge of the congregation in the country. He was succeeded in August, 1895, by Rev. L. Krueger. In that year the church was incorporated. Rev. Krueger resigned in 1898 and was succeeded by Rev. E. Brenion, who stayed until August, 1900.

On the night of June 12, 1902, during an electrical storm, the church was again struck by lightning and burned to the ground. As soon as possible after the destruction of this church, the congregation set about to erect another building. They were successful in this end and in August work was begun on the edifice. This was dedicated in 1902 and was materialized through the effort of Reverend Saffron. This congregation has not been as strong in the last few years as formerly owing to the fact that other church buildings have been erected in the vicinity which proved a greater accommodation and less distance to travel for the worshippers. At present this church is supported by six families.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ST. PETER'S CHURCH OF AMBLE.

The exact day of the organization of the Amble Evangelical Association cannot be determined. It is known that a smaller body was organized, although not with a permanent organization, many years prior to the organ-

ization of the church. These meetings were held in the school houses and at private residences. This congregation has always been served by the pastor at Maple Hill and the history of this congregation is closely connected with the St. Peter's church. At present the membership of this church numbers twenty families.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH OF CEDAR LAKE.

The Seventh-Day Adventist church was organized on July 3, 1879, with the following charter members: Francis Nelson, Anna E. Nelson, Whitman Hall, Samira Nickols, Charlotte Webster, Elvira Webster, Herbert Castle, Eliza Castle, Mary A. Morey, William S. Nelson, Harriet Nelson, Andrew Pierce, Mary Pierce and Myrel Pierce. Elder Francis Nelson was the first minister to serve the church, but they have no resident elder. The membership has increased to one hundred and forty-one. A Sabbath school and a Young People's Society, consisting of two hundred and thirty-four members, is conducted under the auspices of the church. The organization of this church is in harmony with the teachings of the Bible enjoining the validity of the Ten Commandments, the fourth of which teaches the observance of the seventh day as the Sabbath. Besides the teaching of the observance of the seventh day Sabbath, the church teaches and practices health reforms, and are strictly temperate. They believe in the coming of Christ, a resurrection of the dead, and a reward of eternal life for the faithful; a total destruction of the wicked, not by eternal fire or everlasting punishment, but by complete and total annihilation.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF GREENVILLE.

The earliest services which led to the formation of a Roman Catholic society in Greenville occurred in 1859, when meetings were held at the house of Patrick McDonald. They were conducted by Father Rivers, of Gratton, who officiated at intervals for a period of three years, and then moved to Muskegon where he died in 1878. He was then followed by Rev. Charles Bolte, of Ionia, who organized the present Catholic church of Greenville, with the following people as charter members: Patrick McDonald, Mrs. W. Deary, John Norton and Bernard Wieggers. At first it was a mission attended mostly from Carson City. The first church building, which was located in Eureka township, was a frame structure which was torn down in 1913, and the congregation bought a lot in the city of Greenville. A beautiful new

church has just been completed which is constructed out of stone and brick at a cost of \$35,000. Several pastors have served this church as follows: Rev. Father Leitner, Seybold, Crumbly, Irmay, Brogyer, Caldwell, Govsen, Whalen and C. F. Bolte. Beginning with only five members the church has now reached a membership of two hundred fifty.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF STANTON.

St. Appolinia's church of Stanton was organized by C. F. Bolte, then of Ionia, with the following charter members: J. Blaine and family, the Craze family, the P. Davust family and the R. Evans family. After C. F. Bolte had served his time came Rev. Pierle, of Ionia, and then Father Seybold, J. M. Steffes, J. A. Engelnian, Joseph Voyle, Bernard Kethusom, then came Reverend Abel in 1906. During his regime the mission was handed over to R. Whalen, of Carson City (September 3, 1910). The year following the church was remodeled by Father Whalen. It is a frame building which was constructed in the year 1880. The total membership is one hundred. On January 1, 1914, the Stanton mission was handed over to Rev. Charles Bolte, of Greenville, under whose charge it has remained since that time.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF CARSON CITY.

St. Mary's parish of Carson City, Montcalm county, Michigan, was organized in 1896 for the Catholic members living north of the Ionia county line, who had to that time worshipped in St. John's church at Hubbardston. The task of forming the new parish was entrusted to Rev. K. J. Whalen, who held his first service in the "opera rink," February 9, 1896. The membership was small, numbering about fifty families, mostly poor and, owing to the financial stress of the year, hard pressed even to live. Despite all the hindering circumstances, the members of the newly formed parish and their friends in the community started with the determination to succeed in building up a new church plant of which they would in time be proud.

A hall was rented and changed into a neat chapel and served as a place of worship until Christmas, 1896. The next move was to build a church. Material was secured, ground broken and the corner stone laid amidst a great concourse of people the following June. After a rest of a few months, the brick work of the church began, October 16, and was pressed so that the beautiful church was opened for first service Christmas morning, 1896.

Later the interior was finished, the tower erected, and all put in the best of order, furnished to the last dollar's worth that might find fitting place.

The next move of the parish was to build a large, well-ordered, brick parish house in 1898. These buildings were followed by a brick barn and stables for teams. In 1905 a second block just east of the church property was secured and in 1907 St. Mary's brick academy was built and opened as a parish school under the direction of the Sisters of St. Dominic, of Grand Rapids. The school was placed in charge of Sister M. Berchmans, assisted by Sister M. Tearentia, now dead, names that shall never die in St. Mary's parish. In 1906 a tower clock was placed in St. Mary's church by the citizens with the only automatic angelus connection in the state of Michigan.

This completed the church buildings and placed in Carson City one of the grandest church plants found in a Catholic parish in Michigan. While in charge of Carson City parish, Rev. Fr. Whalen cared for all Catholics west as far as Rockford and Howard City, northeast to Alma, southeast to Elsie and south to the Ionia county line, giving him the care of all Catholics in fifteen hundred square miles. During the eighteen years in Carson City, he also builded, and builded well, in Greenville, Harvard, Maple Valley and Stanton, preparing Greenville and Maple Valley for resident pastors. Fr. Whalen was transferred to St. Joseph's, Saginaw, January, 1914, and was succeeded by Rev. J. J. Sheehan, the present pastor.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

LITTLE DENMARK DANISH LUTHERAN CONGREGATION IN MONTCALM COUNTY.

By Rev. Ole Amble.

Little Denmark Danish Lutheran congregation in Montcalm county was organized on April 21, 1873, and this came about through the efforts of Hans Christensen, Christian Anderson, Hans H. Nielson, Jens Christensen and Jens Jensen, Jens Jensen alone surviving of the original organization. There was no church building at that early date, and now four churches have church buildings. Big settlement, two miles north of Gowen; Little settlement, two and one-half miles east of Gowen; North Sidney, one mile west and one mile north of Sidney station, and South Sidney, two miles south and two and one-half west of Sidney station. Besides these churches one other is rented in Trufant. So there are services of this denomination in Kendallville settlement school house in Pine township. And also in Bernen, which is two miles north and one-half mile east of Langston.

The whole congregation is divided into the above number of meeting places, and includes one thousand souls in Montcalm county.

EARLY DANISH SETTLERS.

The congregation owns a parsonage in Gowen, as the pastor lives in that place. The following is an article taken from the *Greenville Independent* of April 29, 1914, and the occasion was the fortieth anniversary of services of the Rev. Ole Amble, of Gowen, which was held on May 20, 1914.

"Gowen, the pleasant little hamlet, located six miles north of Greenville, has the honor of being the boyhood home of Lieutenant Worden, who is known in history as the commander of the "Monitor" in the Civil War, famous for its fight with the rebel ram, "Merrimac." In fact, rumor says that Lieutenant Worden was born in Gowen, but this cannot be confirmed. His father, Frederick Worden, came to Gowen on June 19, 1844, entering the south half of the southeast quarter of section 18, upon which the hamlet of Gowen now stands.

"On August 26, 1844, Mr. Worden sold an interest in the water privi-

leges to Volney and Thomas Belding, members of the famous family of pioneer silk manufacturers of the city of Belding. This company erected a saw-mill but disposed of their interests a few years later.

"It is claimed that many years later Gowen had an opportunity of becoming the silk city of Michigan, as the Belding Brothers tried to negotiate for water power and land on which to erect their big factories, but were frustrated in their attempt by one of the principal land owners of the little hamlet. The saw-mill erected back in the forties by the Belding Brothers and Mr. Worden was later owned by James Gowen, also an early settler, after whom the hamlet was named.

"At the present time Gowen and vicinity is thickly populated with the Danish people, who started coming to this county in 1856, the pioneers in this immigration being Mr. and Mrs. August Rasmussen and Christian Johnson, who all came from the same little village in Denmark. In fact, Mr. Johnson, who was a veteran of the Danish and Dutch War of 1849, came to Montcalm county in 1853 or 1854. Mr. Johnson was one of the six Danish residents to answer Abraham Lincoln's call for volunteers at the opening of the Civil War, and he was killed in the first battle he took part in. His body lies in an unknown grave in the southland now.

"Prior to 1857 there were four Danish people at Gowen, Mr. and Mrs. Rasmussen, Mr. Johnson, and a young man by the name of John Peterson, who was working in the saw-mill, at that time called Gregory's mill, and which stood on the present site of the Gowen depot. On the 10th of August, 1857, owing to the representations of Mr. Rasmussen, forty Danes arrived, including Mr. Rasmussen's aged mother and Mr. Johnson's aged father. Thirty-six of this number were relatives and the meeting, after over a year's separation, seemed like a family reunion."

FROM DENMARK TO MICHIGAN.

The following account of the journey from Denmark to Gowen is taken from the *Greenville Independent*, of the winter of 1902, and was written by Mr. Rasmussen:

"In two hours' drive we had reached Slagelse, our first railroad station. Here my brother said, 'If God will, and we live, we will see each other in America next year.' At last farewell. The train moved and we were soon at the station in Korsor. From there we went on the first steamboat to Keel, one night's voyage. May 11th we reached Altoona. Here I had served six-

teen months as a soldier, and I was well acquainted. I visited my old beloved Captain Beemand, and many others.

"May 13 we left Hamburg (Germany). After fifty-four hours we were across the North Sea, reached Hool (England). The black horse quickly brought us across England. May 16 we reached Liverpool.

"May 22 we embarked on a great sailship, where he had our home for nearly eight weeks. Here we learned to eat salt meat and hard biscuit, if we had not learned it before. It was a small kitchen we had for a large crowd. It was a full day's work for three hundred people to cook their own food in a kitchen room ten by sixteen feet and get only half enough to eat. We had fog, storm and headwind most of the time of our voyage. Sometimes we had the sun on our left, sometimes on the right side, which meant zag work or halt. We saw a whale about forty feet long and a sea serpent of about the same length. Many were very seasick. One boy died and was buried in the ocean. And one baby was born; he was named Atlantic Storm, because he was born on a dreadful stormy day.

"The 16th of July we took on board a pilot, and July 17 we drew into New York harbor. Oh, how glad we were to set our foot on the solid and new land. In Castle Garden our satchel, with our most valuable belongings, such as hymn book, bible and other good books, was stolen. We were glad to get away from this great building where immigrants landed, and hence were distributed throughout the United States. We reached the wonderful Niagara Falls on July 19. Here we made a short stop of four hours. We continued westward the same afternoon. July 20, at two o'clock in the afternoon, we boarded an immigrant train and started for Kalamazoo. The passage required four days. This was the worst of our journey—smoke, dust and vermin, from which it was impossible to escape.

"July 24, at eight o'clock in the morning, we reached Kalamazoo, which was the railroad station nearest Greenville, in those days. We took a stage to Greenville. We reached the home of Mr. Osgood, a farmer in Oakfield. July 26, at two o'clock in the afternoon. Here our coachman took a leaf from his notebook, in which he traced the route we should take through Wolverton Plains. Then we separated from him and at six o'clock at night reached Christian Johnson's shanty, three years after I had taken his address in Denmark."

Following the years 1856 and 1857, the Danish people have come to Michigan in train loads, until there are now several thousand Danes in

Montcalm county, to say nothing of the counties farther north. In fact, in this county the Danish people are said to hold the balance of power.

The Danish people are thrifty and law abiding. The Danish language is still the mother tongue and is spoken by the majority of the older people. The Danish-Americans have held township and county offices. They are graduates of high schools, colleges, universities and business colleges. They will be found in every walk of life. The descendants of the early Danish settlers may be found in every part of the United States and they number preachers, lawyers, bankers and men of every profession. They are the backbone of Montcalm county, and all honor to the last surviving members of those bands of hardy pioneers, who carved homes and modest fortunes out of the wilderness.

INTERVIEW WITH REV. OLE AMBLE.

The majority of the Danish people are members of the Lutheran faith, and their spiritual needs are looked after by Rev. Ole Amble, who resides in Gowen, and who preaches in seven different localities—Little Dane Settlement, Big Dane Settlement, Trufant, South Sidney, North Sidney, Kendallville and the Look school house. To the Danish people, Ole Amble is not only pastor, but teacher, lawyer, doctor, father and general friend. The *Independent* article continued:

"I will never forget my visit to Reverend Amble's home. Arriving in Gowen I was directed up the railroad tracks to a large, two-story white house. On the north side there was a storm house, and I could not help but observe, as I knocked timidly at the door, that there were all of six pairs of rubbers sitting patiently in the storm house waiting for a rainy day. A gruff voice told me to come in. I did so, but found myself in a small hall, a door leading into what was apparently a downstairs living room, and stairs leading to the second story.

"It was a question as to whether I should make a break into what ought to be the right room downstairs or to blunder upstairs and be mistaken for a second story worker. Suddenly I heard a noise upstairs and quickly glanced up. A kindly young-old face was gazing down at me. I started up the stairs, asking at the same time if this was Reverend Amble.

"The owner of the young-old face assured me it was, and asked me point blank what I wanted. Much in the manner of a thirteen-year-old school boy I informed him that I wanted to meet him, and then, as an after-thought, introduced myself.

"I was invited into the den, which consists of an upstairs room devoid of carpets and completely filled with books and newspapers. A desk stood in one corner and there Reverend Amble sat down, indicating any one of the three or four chairs in other parts of the room. Papers upon papers and books upon books, pipes and cigars, tables, chairs and chests and drawers. It is there that this leader of the Danish people manufactures his sermons, it is there he listens to the tales of troubles told him by the members of his congregation; it is there he thinks and there he reads.

"Forty years ago the 20th of May, Reverend Amble came to this country, and the fact that today he is stronger entrenched in the hearts of the Danish people than at any time in the past, is but a faint proof of the esteem and veneration in which he is held by the people.

"On May 20 there will be held at the Grange hall in Greenville a union meeting of all the members of Reverend Amble's congregations, who will observe the fortieth anniversary of his arrival at Gowen. An excellent program is being arranged, and after the services a dinner will be given for the enjoyment of those present.

"Reverend Amble has one of the largest parishes in the United States, and his personal influence covers the entire country. He came to Gowen on May 20, 1874, and has remained ever since. For the past twenty years he has taken his meals every day with Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Swan. Everybody knows where his house is. It is a refuge to many. In all six hundred and twenty-six couples have been married by this veteran minister since his coming to Gowen. He is the general adviser for the Danish people, and has ministered to them for forty years.

"Reverend Amble is a Norwegian by birth. He was born on July 28, 1847, in Norway, coming to the United States in May, 1871, three years before his coming to Gowen. He went to Madison, Wisconsin, then to Marshall, Wisconsin, graduated from the Angsbury Theological Seminary. He was ordained a minister on June 11, 1872, and had his first charge in Allamakee county, Iowa, in the Norwegian Lutheran church. Reverend Amble is a friend to everybody, and everybody is his friend. He is a deputy county clerk, a position he has held for years. He issues his own marriage licenses and then marries the couples. 'In my forty years of service,' remarked Reverend Amble, 'I have had occasion to confirm children, later grant them marriage licenses and marry them, confirm their children and officiate at their funeral.'

"'Am I against the tango? Really I know nothing about it. I am no

Pope, that I should dictate to my people what they should 'do and what they shouldn't. Now, another thing. I have been written about a number of times and it isn't necessary to say much about me,' continued this pioneer preacher. 'Now be sure and say just as little as you can, for everybody knows me any way.'

"Somehow I found my way out of that wonderful 'den,' full of awe and respect for the Grand Old Man of the Danish people, the man who came from far-away Norway and has given his whole life to the betterment of the Danish people. A man full of indomitable courage, who could have reached the top rung of the ladder in anything he might have undertaken."

GOWEN'S BUSINESS SECTION.

It is claimed that Gowen may be the site of one of the Commonwealth Power Company's dams in the near future. This story goes that, if the Muskegon to Saginaw interurban project goes through, the big power company will build a dam at Gowen and furnish the "juice" for the electric cars, both ways from Trufant.

V. Thomsen & Company is one of the veteran business firms of this little village. A. E. Thomsen, a son, also formerly conducted a general store in Trufant. A full line of agricultural implements is also carried.

H. Paulsen, the proprietor of the other general store, is also proprietor of the hotel. Mr. Paulsen has erected a fine brick block for both his hotel and store, which would be a credit to towns many times the size of Gowen.

Dr. C. H. Lozar, who came to Gowen two years ago from Coleman, owns the drug store and is the only practicing physician in the place.

The postoffice is ably looked after by Spencer McClellan, who received his commission on November 1, 1904, and is still on the job. There is one rural route from Gowen, although there is strong agitation for a second route, reaching west of the village.

Gowen is important as a potato market. There are four buyers, all of whom represent Greenville firms. Better roads around Gowen would do much to advance the market features.

Gowen is also the home of Oscar A. Rasmussen, who is fast becoming noted in this part of the country as an auctioneer. Mr. Rasmussen, not only attends to his farming interests, but buys potatoes, grains, etc., and does a big auction business. Mr. Rasmussen has a pleasing personality and is extremely popular with the Danish people.

Gowen is also noted for its ball team. The Gowen baseball team has

always occupied a prominent place in the sporting world of this county. Strictly "home-grown" material, the members have developed wonderful team work and are feared by all of the other smaller towns of this section. A. E. Paulsen, manager, and Clyde Enmons, captain. The manager of the team claimed, without smiling a particle, that he had a pitcher who could throw some of the most wonderful curves in the country, curves that would fairly wind themselves around the latter's neck.

Gowen has an eight-grade school, under the supervision of Occie Nielsen, which is one of the best of its size in the country.

Also last, but not least, what is known as Swan's hotel, must not be overlooked. This is the private residence of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Swan, well known in Greenville, where Mrs. Swan conducts a sort of restaurant or hotel.

The Danish population was first started around Gowen and came in the largest number on August 10, 1857, fifty-eight years ago in the fall of 1915. But the Danish population has spread all over the country. They are, as a general rule, industrious and hard-working, and do not bother the judge. Very few have ever been within the clutches of the law. They are industrious, intelligent and God-loving race of people.

The younger classes of Danes—as there are at present the third and fourth generation in this country—are very eager to learn and, therefore, are found among them lawyers, doctors, veterinarians, attorneys, dentists and lots of telegraph operators and numberless quantities of school teachers both among the men and women. They cannot be excelled in their farming, their home life and in the general good they do to the community.

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET.

Article from *Greenville Daily Call*, May 21, 1914, on the celebration and in honor of the faithful services of Rev. Ole Amble, who for forty years has been pastor of the church of Gowen:

"A vast number of Danish citizens had a gala day in this city yesterday, when they gathered from all parts of the county to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of Rev. Ole Amble's coming to this county to take charge of the Danish Lutheran church at Gowen. The center of attraction for the gathering of the Danish and American people was the Grange hall, which was beautifully decorated with flags, boxes of plants and flowers.

"There were twelve tables, capable of seating from forty to fifty banqueters, each piled up with good things to eat, and the five hundred and

sixty-four who sat down to the banquet were well waited upon by the handsome waitresses. During the banquet music on the piano was ably executed by Hazel Nielsen, previous to which Rev. St. Clare Parsons offered prayer.

"After the banquet, L. Wells Sprague, who had been selected as toast-master, called upon William B. Wells, editor of the *Daily Call*, to make a few remarks. He told of the long acquaintance he had had with Rev. Ole Amble, extending for forty years, and of the repeated notices in the columns of the *Call* he had made of the reverend gentleman's good work as the years rolled by. He also called attention to the indefatigable work of Pastor Ole Amble, who, from being the pastor of a small church with few members, finally had started six churches in the county, all prosperous and under his supervision. He spoke of the Rev. Ole Amble's Christian character, which was above reproach, and likened him to a man who walked hand in hand with God his Father. He had only one thing against the good man, and that was his refusal to get married, and finished by leaving this act of disobedience in the hands of the ladies.

"An address, in the Danish language, was given by Rev. P. Rasmussen, which we were unable to report, as we do not understand the Danish language; but one thing he does know, that it was effective, for the tears rolled down the faces of a large number of the men and women listening to him.

"The next was an address of Miss Media Thomsen, who eloquently told of the work of Mr. Amble, and finished by reciting a poem.

"C. L. Rarden complimented Mr. Amble and congratulated him upon having so fine a following and the love of them all. He spoke of the reverend gentleman's opposition to divorce and how he always refused to perform the marriage ceremony over divorced people. He also told of having only two divorces to obtain for the Danish people who had been married by Mr. Amble, which was a great record out of over six hundred couples made man and wife.

"Mr. C. J. Rasmussen, who came to this country fifty-seven years ago, was called upon for a few remarks, which he gave in the Danish and English language, finally winding up by presenting Reverend Amble with a purse containing \$500 in gold as a mark of affection of all of the people and his members who love and honor their worthy pastor.

"Then the recipient thanked his people and his friends for their remembrance and the meeting was brought to an end by the benediction, by Rev. St. Clare Parsons. Between the speeches the choir of Mr. Amble's chief church sang many selections.

"The committee, Walter Feldt, C. C. Larke, Ivan Nielsen, N. Rosendal and Mr. Peterson, and the ladies, feel proud of the successful ending of the celebration of the anniversary, which went off without a hitch."

Besides all the other work done by the Rev. Ole Amble, especially preaching at various places, he christens each year an average of fifty children, confirms twenty-five and preaches twenty-five funerals. Altogether, Mr. Amble has performed six hundred and twenty-six marriage ceremonies since coming to Gowen.

CHAPTER XXIX.

SECRET SOCIETIES AND FRATERNITIES.

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

Carson City Lodge No. 306, Free and Accepted Masons, was chartered on January 11, 1872, with J. W. Champlin, grand master, and Henry Chamberlain, senior grand warden. Martin Miner was worshipful master; W. S. Everest, senior warden, and L. H. Willsey, junior warden. The first preliminary meeting was held at Carson City on April 8, 1871. Present at this meeting were: Martin J. Miner, William S. Everest, David Stackhouse, John Savage, Daniel H. Sinkey, Lewis Willsey, Charles R. Dickinson, Winfield S. Miner, James M. Proctor, Augustus O. Burnham, Charles Annis, Ezra Hayes, Henry P. Miller, D. C. Sebring and Charles Ambrook. At that meeting sixty-two dollars was subscribed to meet preliminary expenses. A committee, consisting of H. P. Miller, L. Willsey and Charles A. Brook, was appointed to effect an organization of a lodge. The following were recommended as officers of the lodge: Martin J. Miner, worshipful master; W. S. Everest, senior warden; L. H. Willsey, junior warden; Charles Ambrook, secretary; H. P. Miller, treasurer; Charles Annis, senior deacon; John Savage, junior deacon; Perry Patton, tyler; Charles Proctor and D. M. Sinkey, stewards; and Ezra Hayes, chaplain. The brethren mentioned in the dispensation to constitute the new lodge were Martin J. Miner, W. E. Everest, Lewis W. Wilset, W. S. Miner, Daniel H. Sinkey, J. H. Savage, James M. Proctor, Perry Patton, Henry P. Miller, Hiram Roop, Charles Ambrook, Aaron Lyon, T. W. Fancher and J. D. Bower, whose names were presented to the lodge on November 1, 1871.

The officers for 1915 are: Frank H. Miner, worshipful master; Roy H. McDougall, senior warden; John N. Brice, junior warden; Andrew B. Goodwin, secretary; Charles F. Dickinson, treasurer; Frank N. Gunther, senior deacon; Chester R. Culver, junior deacon; John White, tyler. The past masters of the lodge are: Charles Ambrook, James Proctor, George R. Gibbs, Hiram Roop, Lewis H. Willsey, James Aldrich, Martin J. Miner,

George H. Cagwin, Fred Orth, George M. Jones, J. Philo Taylor, Francis S. Caswell, Edward D. Lyon, Stanley R. Coleman and Frank H. Miner. The present membership of the lodge is ninety-one.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.

Carson City Chapter No. 271, Order of the Eastern Star, was granted a charter on October 11, 1900, to the following people, who were the charter members: John G. Andreson, Bertha Andreson, Arthur L. Bemis, Sada M. Bemis, Mary P. Caswell, Emma Caswell, Francis S. Caswell, Charles R. Culver, Ezra R. Flint, Mary Flint, Ruth Flint, Clara, Ferris, Lizzie Ferris, Minnie Fowler, George M. Jones, Clara Jones, Mattie B. Jones, Mary J. Knickerbocker, Nina L. Knickerbocker, Morris Netzorg, Lena Netzorg, J. Philo Taylor, Victoria E. Wilkinson, Emma Halett, B. Frank Sweet, Emma Sweet, Louise Shaw and Edna Smith. The past worthy matrons are Bertha Andreson, Ruth Flint, Clide Case and Emily Taylor. Past worthy patrons are: Morris Netzorg, Jay A. Lovett, J. Philo Taylor, Francis N. Culver, Francis S. Caswell and Edward D. Lyon.

The officers for 1915 are: Emily Taylor, worthy matron; E. D. Lyon, worthy patron; Clide Case, associate matron; Flora D. White, secretary; Charles F. Dickinson, treasurer; Minnie M. Fowler, conductress; Susan Waters, associate conductress; Belle Dickinson, Ada; Linda Brice, Ruth; Vee Culver, Esther; Fannie Wright, Electa; Phrona Rice, warden; Elizabeth Culver, chaplain. Present membership is ninety-one.

HOWARD CITY LODGE NO. 329.

Howard City Lodge No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons, was granted a dispensation on November 16, 1874, under the grand lodge of Michigan, and regular meetings were held the ensuing year, the grand lodge of the state, at its annual communication in 1875, continuing the dispensation in force for another year. The charter members and first officers were as follow: David H. Lord, worshipful master; Albert P. Thomas, senior warden; Ebenezer Wright, junior warden; Hannibal G. Coburn, treasurer; Lewis W. Wilbur, secretary; William H. Lovely, Richard H. O'Donald, Royal G. Quick, Joseph T. Tones, Wallace, Skutt, Fred A. Baldwin and Morris E. Keith.

The grand lodge, at its annual communication in 1876, granted a charter, the one in effect since, being No. 329. The first meetings were held in a

lodge room known as Odd Fellows hall, located in the Lord block in the village of Howard City, and this practice continued until the destruction of the building by fire on the night of January 1, 1884. The major portion of the lodge's records and effects was destroyed. But one meeting was held in 1884 on account of there being no place to meet. This meeting was the annual one held the following December in the Masonic hall, ever since occupied by the lodge, located in the Knapp & Thomas block.

The first banquet held by the lodge was in December, 1878, at Coburn's Exchange hotel. This function was interrupted by a serious fire in a neighboring business block, the brothers rallying to the call for help and succeeding in quenching the flames, then returning at a late hour to their merry-making. Subsequent banquets were successfully conducted on January 12, 1891; January 14, 1893; December 17, 1894; December 12, 1895; December 1, 1896. The attendance at these affairs has grown from forty-two to two hundred, showing to some degree the growth in numbers and influence of the lodge.

The present membership of the lodge is two hundred, and the present officers are: H. M. Gibbs, worshipful master; R. S. Jennings, senior warden; W. J. Rushmore, junior warden; Arie M. Cook, treasurer; A. F. Engleman, secretary; E. Witmer, senior deacon; J. B. Haskins, junior deacon; L. W. Greene and John A. Baty, stewards; George M. Doty, tyler.

SIX LAKES LODGE NO. 454.

Six Lakes Lodge No. 454, Free and Accepted Masons, was organized on October 5, 1908. The first meeting was held under dispensation from the grand lodge, and Percival E. Townsend was the first candidate for initiation. He was initiated on November 2, 1908, and raised to the sublime degree of a master Mason on December 21, 1908. The charter members were: George S. Townsend, William A. Wood, Lucius M. Miel, William C. Westley, Jacob P. Fox, Angus H. McDonald, Robert Simpkins, Aaron K. Holben, Roswell Fleck, Henry Gibbs and John S. Ionis. The first officers were: William C. Westley, worshipful master; Roswell Fleck, senior warden; J. P. Fox, junior warden; G. S. Townsend, secretary; William A. Wood, treasurer; Angus H. McDonald, senior deacon; Henry J. Gibbs, junior deacon; John S. Jones, tyler.

This lodge has had quite a rapid growth, having at the end of a few years, a membership of forty-four. The present officers are: A. F. Edgerby, worshipful master; Ward Gibbs, senior warden; T. Masson, junior

warden; R. Simpkins, treasurer; G. S. Townsend, secretary; R. Fleck, senior deacon; Fred Crode, junior deacon; A. K. Holben, tyler.

EASTERN STAR AT SIX LAKES.

Six Lakes Chapter No. 417, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized on April 22, 1914. This chapter was installed by Worthy Grand Patron George E. Ellis, who was assisted by Martha Williams, of Grand Rapids. Following is a list of the charter members: Ida M. Wood, G. Emmett Cornell, Laura Townsend, Robert Simpkins, Anna Simpkins, Dorothy Simpkins, Henry Gibbs, Sarah Gibbs, Aaron Holben, Jessie Holben, Jacob Fox, Delia Fox, Lillian Cornell, Sarah Corlis, Kate Wood, Hazel Sweaney, William Schade, Laura Schade, Alton McCracken, Lottie McCracken, Emile Lake, Mina Lake, Bessie Fisher, Roswell Fleck, Cora Mauterstock, Tressa Mauterstock, Nora Musson, Thomas Musson, Alexander Brown, Mercy Brown. The officers elected to serve the new lodge were: Ida M. Wood, worthy matron; G. E. Cornell, worthy patron; Laura Townsend, associate matron; Lottie McCracken, treasurer; Anna Simpkins, secretary; Lillian Cornell, conductress; Laura Schade, associate conductress; Delia Fox, warden; Tressa Mauterstock, Ada; Dorothy Paulson, Ruth; Hazel Sweaney, Esther; Kate Wood, Martha; Nora Musson, Electa; Bessie Fisher, marshal; Alton McCracken, chaplain; Cora Mauterstock, organist; William Schade, sentinel.

This chapter is a very lively one, having attained a membership of forty-five in a little over a year. The present officers are: Lottie McCracken, worthy matron; Alton McCracken, worthy patron; Kate Wood, associate matron; Bertha Byrns, secretary; Anna Simpkins, treasurer; Bessie Fisher, conductress; Laura Schade, associate conductress; Thomas Musson, chaplain; Dorothy Paulson, marshal; Tressa Mauterstock, Ada; Lillian Cornell, Ruth; Hazel Sweaney, Esther; Kate Gibbs, Martha; Mary Berry, Electa; Edith Byrns, warden; Ward Gibbs, sentinel.

EDMORE LODGE NO. 360.

Edmore Lodge No. 360, Free and Accepted Masons, dates its beginning from January 4, 1883. It was installed by William White, of Lakeview, with only a few members, but it has been on the gain all the time, and now has a membership of one hundred and two. The few people who launched this new enterprise and helped to make it a success were: Edwin Grosvenor, who was elected worshipful master; Williard A. Coon, senior

warden; Edwin B. Moore, junior warden; Edgar S. Wagar, secretary; Thadon K. Carmer, Alonzo M. Wolaver, Fred R. Sherwood and Williard W. Low.

The people who now have the vital interests of this lodge in hand are: T. E. Crane, worshipful master; J. H. Gibbs, Jr., senior warden; B. C. Wilson, junior warden; M. E. Wagar, treasurer; H. P. Beebe, secretary; H. G. Cronkhite, senior deacon; Albert Otto, junior deacon; Charles M. White, tyler.

EASTERN STAR AT EDMORE.

Edmore Chapter No. III, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized on October 11, 1894. They were fortunate in having a large number of members from the beginning. They were as follow: F. H. Geiger, Maggie Geiger, W. J. Wilson, Amy Wilson, O. B. Morgan, Abbie Morgan, L. S. Crotser, Della Crotser, W. G. Wisner, Anna Wisner, George G. Purple, Mary Purple, H. Sackett, Persena Sackett, A. F. Skarritt, Ada Skarritt, J. H. Sanderson, Nettie Holmes, Rose A. Landon, A. N. Demoray, Lucy Demoray, L. H. Gibbs, Julia Gibbs, W. J. Mosgrove, Hattie Mosgrove, G. W. McKee, Matilda McKee. The chapter was installed by Allan S. Wright, worthy grand patron, and the first to be elected to the various offices were: Maggie Geiger, worthy matron; W. J. Wilson, worthy patron; Abbie Morgan, associate matron; Anna Wisner, conductress; Della Crotser, associate conductress; J. W. Sanderson, secretary; H. Sackett, treasurer.

They have a present membership of one hundred thirty and their number is constantly increasing. The present officers are: Grace Rupert, worthy matron; B. C. Wilson, worthy patron; Rose Swift, associate matron; Helma Harrison, associate conductress; Clara Purdon, conductress; Marion Curtis, treasurer; Matilda Edgerley, secretary.

PEARL LAKE LODGE NO. 324.

Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, at Sheridan, was organized on January 27, 1875, and installed by Grand Master William L. Webber. A charter was granted to the following members: Palmer H. Taylor, John McInvaine, Robert W. Barkham, John S. Manning, George R. Taylor, George A. Stanton, John A. Westbrook, Horatio W. Sanborn, Sylvester Arntz, O. D. Clark, James A. Marsh and Seneca Slyter. The first officers to serve this lodge were: Palmer H. Taylor, worshipful master; John McInvaine; senior warden, Robert W. Barkham; junior warden, Jos-

eph W. Marsh; senior deacon, John S. Manning, junior deacon; George W. Stanton, treasurer; George R. Taylor, secretary; W. A. Scott, tyler. The present officers are: Roy A. Cutler, worshipful master; Gorden S. Ehle, senior warden; Edward Domingo, junior warden; E. D. Greenhoe, senior deacon; George W. Miller, junior deacon; E. A. Rutherford, treasurer; J. Watson Couter, secretary. At one time the lodge building was burned and most of the furniture and fixtures and the early records were lost. They have a present membership of one hundred and thirty-five.

IVANHOE LODGE NO. 380.

Ivanhoe Lodge No. 380, Free and Accepted Masons, at Lakeview, was organized on January 30, 1885, by Arthur M. Clark, grand master; James H. Farnum, deputy grand master; Michael Shoemaker, senior warden; and Samuel Horton, junior warden. It was installed by James H. Farnum. Neils H. Youngman was chosen first worshipful master; Charles T. French, senior warden; John W. Kirtland, junior warden. It is a lamentable fact that the lodge building burned down at an early date, destroying all the early records, including the list of charter members. The lodge is very active at present, having a membership of one hundred and fourteen. The present officers are: F. M. Northrup, worshipful master; B. F. Butler, senior warden; A. W. Bale, junior warden; H. C. Holmes, treasurer; Scott Swarthout, secretary; J. T. Swarthout, tyler.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Pine Grove Lodge No. 202, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized in Stanton, Michigan, February 7, 1873, under a dispensation issued on the 3d of February, from the grand lodge, authorizing and empowering F. A. Goldsmith, George F. Case, Martin Joy, A. Walker and Morris P. Baker to organize and constitute a subordinate lodge. By virtue of this authority placed in the above mentioned men the lodge was organized pursuant to the dispensation, with the following charter members: F. A. Goldsmith, George F. Case, M. P. Baker, A. Walker, M. Joy and George W. Stoneburner. The charter for this lodge was granted by the grand lodge on February 21, and the lodge took on its permanent organization. The first officers elected were: F. A. Goldsmith, noble grand; G. F. Case, vice-grand; George W. Stoneburner, secretary; Charles S. Wells, financial secretary; M. P. Baker, treasurer.

Those now serving the lodge are: L. E. Brown, noble grand; M. D. Gates, vice-grand; H. W. Palmer, secretary; R. Arthur Carothers, financial secretary; Thomas D. Dow, treasurer. They own their own quarters, which is a two-story building constructed of venerated brick in the year 1885. This lodge made a remarkable growth in its early days, having reached a membership of thirty-two at the end of the first year. Now their membership consists of one hundred and thirteen active members. Martin Joy is the only charter member living.

DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH AT STANTON.

Mistletoe Lodge No. 71, Daughters of Rebekah, was organized at Stanton on November 28, 1883, with the following charter members: J. W. Wheeler, W. E. Estus, I. M. Conrad, George H. Dowy, C. A. Vanhoosen, George Geffers, Robert Pakes, M. Joy, M. Franklin, P. F. Clark, H. P. Norton, Thomas Ball, E. B. Hammer, John A. Miller, John Oding, J. C. Hartman, W. W. Purchase, G. F. Case, M. A. Bradford, E. Aspy, Julia Wheeler, Henrietta Estus, Amanda Norton, Nellie Conrad, Sarah Ball, Anna Dowy, Ester S. M. Hammer, Della Oding.

The first officers of Mistletoe Lodge No. 71 were: G. F. Case, noble grand; Julia Wheeler, vice-grand; Henrietta Estus, secretary; Della Oding, financial secretary; Mary Clark, treasurer; Anna Dowy, warden; Miss Ball, conductress; Amanda Norton, right supporter to noble grand; H. P. Norton, left supporter to noble grand; J. C. Oding, inner guard; George Dowy, outer guard; J. W. Wheeler, right supporter to vice-grand; P. F. Clark, left supporter to vice-grand; W. E. Estus, chaplain.

EVERGREEN ENCAMPMENT NO. 89.

Evergreen Encampment No. 89, Independent Order of Odd Fellows was instituted at Stanton, Michigan, February 5, 1879, with the following charter members: H. P. Norton, A. Jennings, M. T. Tenney, W. J. Fairbanks, Thomas Eric, Martin Joy and Reuben Sawtells. This camp continued as an active part of the Odd Fellows lodge at Stanton and in Montcalm county until the year 1895, when through lack of interest it surrendered its charter.

Evergreen Encampment No. 89 was reorganized at Stanton on April 26, 1898. Since the reorganization this camp has had a period of prosperity and growth, and owing to the active part taken by its members it has now

reached a membership of one hundred and sixty-two. The present officers are: John W. Basef, chief patriarch; H. O. Salisbury, junior warden; Karl Zimmerman, high priest; F. B. Sherwood, junior warden; David Mummery, treasurer; T. D. Dow, financial scribe; J. C. Hartman, scribe; Jerome Pintler, first watch; Ivan Hart, second watch; Lee E. McNutt, third watch; James Boger, four watch; Lewis Johnson, outside sentinel; George Reeves, inside sentinel.

CANTON MONTCALM NO. 18.

Canton Montcalm No. 18, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was established at Stanton, December 6, 1910, with the following charter members: J. C. Hartman, C. B. Rarden, George A. Critchett, C. L. Meach, R. W. Rhoades, O. E. Bucaning, C. H. Bachman, M. T. Christensen, E. S. Stubbins, Jerome Printler, William A. Wright, W. A. Evans, Levi A. Wilson, Oscar Boger, M. D. Gates and A. T. Green. The first officers of this canton were: C. B. Rarden, captain; George A. Critchett, lieutenant; J. C. Hartman, ensign; C. H. Bachman, clerk; R. W. Rhoades, accountant. The membership at present numbers fifty-five, and the following persons are serving the canton as the present officers: Charles C. Prevette, captain; R. M. King, lieutenant; T. D. Dow, ensign; Karl Zimmerman, clerk; E. S. Stubbins, accountant. J. C. Hartman is the only retired captain in this canton, and Mr. Hartman also bears the title of major.

EMPIRE LODGE NO. 39.

Empire Lodge No. 39, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized at Edmore, July 19, 1883, and installed by Past Grand Master Norman Bailey. The first officers were: A. Jennings, noble grand; George Swift, vice-grand; H. C. Fairchilds, recording secretary; Frank Betts, financial secretary; J. K. Train, treasurer. The charter members were: George McKee, William Sexton, J. K. Train, Joseph Jacobs, George Farell, George Swift, H. C. Fairchilds, A. Jennings, J. J. Weir and D. B. Morehead. The year 1912 found a new brick building under construction. It is thirty-three by eighty-eight, and is two stories high. It has a good basement, built for the convenience of the members. The cost of this structure is estimated at \$6,000. They took possession of this new hall in November, 1912. The present officers are: William Richards, noble grand; L. A. Wardell, vice-grand; Lavern Welch, recording secretary; George Herman, financial secre-

tary; A. S. Morse, treasurer. The July, 1915, report showed a membership of one hundred and thirty-eight.

CARSON CITY LODGE NO. 262.

Carson City Lodge No. 262, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized on September 9, 1875. A dispensation was granted by Grand Master George Dean to P. Martin, W. C. Martin, E. H. Brown, G. B. Pitts, S. W. Burgdurfer, W. A. Sweet, W. M. Sever and George Knickerbocker, as charter members. At the first meeting the following persons were elected as officers to serve that organization: S. W. Burgdurfer, noble grand; E. H. Brower, vice-grand; W. C. Burke, recording secretary; W. A. Sweet, Jr., treasurer; P. Martin, warden; G. B. Pitts, conductor. Anderson Chestnut, R. P. Davis and S. H. Caswell were the first candidates initiated. The officers elected at the last meeting are: Clyde Straight, noble grand; Charles Orbh, vice-grand; Frank E. Bennett, recording secretary; J. Fred Clark, financial secretary; R. F. Emerson, treasurer. The present membership numbers ninety-six.

PROGRESS LODGE NO. 342.

Progress Lodge No. 342, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, McBride, Michigan was organized on September 22, 1903, with the following charter members: Robert Deja, George Hunt, James Erridge, William Gould and Thomas Garlock. It was installed by Grand Master Brown, and at the first meeting the following officers were elected: T. E. Garlock, noble grand; William Gould, vice-grand; Robert Deja, recording secretary; James Erridge, financial secretary; George Hunt, treasurer. The present officers are: Richard Krause, noble grand; Ralph Deja, vice-grand; Wilder H. Godfrey, recording secretary; Charles Dapp, financial secretary; O. F. Swift, treasurer. The present membership of this lodge is seventy-two.

DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH AT M'BRIDE.

Ivy Leaf Lodge, Daughters of Rebekah, was organized at McBride, May 24, 1904, and installed by Grand Master Brown. Jennie Deja, Julia Froman, Martha Temple, Martha Pintler, George Froman and Jerome Printler were the charter members. The first officers were: Jennie Deja, noble grand; Martha Temple, vice-grand; Julia Froman, recording secretary; Jerome Printler, financial secretary; Mrs. Hall, treasurer. The present

officers are: Minnie Fultz, noble grand; Gladys Coles, vice-grand; Dora Coles, recording secretary; Ida Seymore, financial secretary; Judson Seymore, treasurer. The growth of this lodge has been quite gratifying, since it now has a membership of seventy.

EUREKA LODGE NO. 91.

Eureka Lodge No. 91, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Greenville, was organized under a dispensation, October 26, 1865, its charter members having been W. C. Sherwood, Seth Sprague, William Maxted, W. N. Pettee, D. A. Elliott. Its charter officers were: W. C. Sherwood, noble grand; Seth Sprague, vice-grand; L. W. Cole, secretary; W. N. Pettee, treasurer. It was installed by B. W. Dennis, grand representative of Byron lodge, under the old five-degree system. At the time of the organization of this lodge George W. Rissel was grand master. The present officers of this lodge are: Nels Johnson, noble grand; Lars Johnson, vice-grand; Joseph F. Forrest, recording secretary; John Kingin, financial secretary; C. P. Terry, treasurer. At the last initiatory the membership numbered two hundred and twenty-five.

DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH AT GREENVILLE.

Industry Lodge No. 107, Daughters of Rebekah, which is an auxiliary of the Odd Fellows lodge at Greenville, was organized on December 13, 1887. The following persons are now serving as officers of this lodge: Mrs. Bertha Gordon, noble grand; May Dick, recording secretary; Alta Straley, treasurer; Ethel McCollam, vice-grand; Mrs. Della Mason, financial secretary.

VESTABURG LODGE NO. 352.

Vestaburg Lodge No. 352, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized on August 23, 1881. They were so unfortunate as to lose all their records by fire in 1893, so much of the early history of the lodge is unobtainable. However, the charter members are known, and are as follow: Clark Witbeck, Daniel P. Strubble, Franklin R. Cordrey, John W. Johnson, Samuel Link, Christopher Johnson, Francis H. Cooper, John E. Evans, Stephen J. Martin.

The lodge owns a large hall, which is worth about one thousand dollars.

It is a live lodge, composed of sixty members. Present officers are: Noble grand, Jesse Beach; vice-grand, Edward Keeler; recording secretary, Fred Snyder; financial secretary, G. E. Peasley; treasurer, Dan Caris.

ENTRICAN LODGE NO. 43.

Entrican Lodge No. 43, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized on December 6, 1911. This lodge was installed by Frank R. Hamberger, grand master, with the following charter members: William F. Delinert, Lewis N. Lee, Luther Allen, R. A. Pintler, George F. Comden, Jerome Printler, Harvey Lee, Levi Wilson, Fred Comden, S. P. Funkhouse, S. P. Comden, A. A. Prall, Ethan Roberts, Edward Drier, D. M. Blumberg, Alva Cummins, M. A. Hunt, George I. Blumberg, H. W. Smith, A. L. Cummins, B. W. Smith, Lewis Wilson, Roy Sayles, Joe Clark, Charles Pritchard, James Jeffreys, William Pearson, R. C. Parshall, Roy Hunt, Jacob Crawford and Clarence Blumberg. The first officers to serve this lodge were: William F. Delinert, noble grand; Harvey Lee, vice-grand; Lewis N. Lee, recording secretary; S. J. Camden, financial secretary; Ray Printler, treasurer.

The Entrican lodge purchased their present hall from the Knights of the Maccabees for the consideration of \$700. This lodge has had a very marked growth, as shown by the fact that at the end of the only four years life it has reached a membership of ninety-five. The present officers are: Mortimer E. Hunt, noble grand; Clarence Blumberg, vice-grand; Ethan Roberts, financial secretary; Ray Printler, treasurer.

FENWICK LODGE NO. 517.

Fenwick Lodge No. 517, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized on September 6, 1905, with the following charter members: Homer Parks, Elmer T. Brokaw, S. P. Minier, Jay Gallop, John F. Staines, William W. Snyder, Charles H. Easton, H. L. Seeley, J. W. Bullock, David Peabody and Perry Brown. The first officers chosen by this lodge were as follow: S. P. Minier, noble grand; Jay Gallop, vice-grand; J. W. Bullock, recording secretary; Homer Parks, financial secretary; John F. Staines, treasurer; E. T. Brokaw, warden.

This lodge has been very active and prosperous and deserves all the honor possible. Starting with a membership of eleven, it has reached a total membership of one hundred and twenty-two, and this in a village of only

about forty inhabitants. This increase in membership has been accomplished in ten years, and the lodge has drawn principally from the farming districts. It now holds third place in the lodges of Montcalm county of this order for size. The present officers are: V. C. Allchin, noble grand; S. D. Gates, vice-grand; Earl C. Jenks, secretary; J. G. Parks, treasurer; W. W. Root, warden.

JOY LODGE NO. 298.

Joy Lodge No. 298, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Crystal, was organized on June 29, 1877. This chapter was installed by William Sweet, with the following charter members: Josiah L. Zuver, Hiram H. Steffey, Charles E. Rogers, Albert S. Oliver, John A. Drum and C. D. Mason. The first officers elected were: J. L. Zuver, noble grand; J. A. Drum, vice-grand; A. S. Oliver, recording secretary; C. E. Rogers, treasurer. The present officers are: J. M. Lascille, noble grand; Marion Waldrow, vice-grand; J. Bert Proctor, recording secretary; C. M. Frank, treasurer. This is now a large lodge, being composed of one hundred and three members.

DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH AT CRYSTAL.

Peerless Lodge No. 41, Daughters of Rebekah, of Crystal, was instituted on April 21, 1880. The charter members were: Arkemas Grennel, Dianna Grennel, Permenio Long, Hannah Long, Daniel R. Shaffer, Cornelia Shaffer, Perry A. Powers, Hattie Powers, George Vermer, Louise Vermer, C. G. Mason, Louis Mason, John A. Drum, Susie Drum, O. F. Mason, Mary Mason, H. H. Freed, S. F. Freed, Harrison Wheeler, Mary Wheeler, Wilton Lascille, Emma Lascille, D. S. Struble, J. S. Struble and Mary Steffey.

EVEN LODGE NO. 87.

Even Lodge No. 87, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Sheridan, Michigan, was organized on August 31, 1885, through a dispensation from the grand lodge by the grand warden, A. B. Clark. The charter members of this lodge were as follow: Lew Murray, W. Wheeler, W. F. McNaughton, Calvin Rooker, E. B. Gardner, S. D. Albright, Arthur Hemingway, Edward E. Thayer, Frank C. Brackett, William H. Wood, Charles Doran, S. M. Gleason, Charles F. Brown, A. G. Giddings, William Fuller, E. J. Sherwood, Henry P. Clark, John J. Gray, M. A. Bonsell, David Brackett and Charles H. Hunt. The charter members, who are still active and in good standing, are W. Wheeler, M. F. McNaughton, E. E. Thayer, William H. Wood, William Fuller. The first officers of the lodge were: Clifton H.

Clement, noble grand; John Larmer, vice-grand; William Peters, recording secretary; Peter F. Clark, financial secretary; Amos T. Ayers, treasurer.

The temple where the meetings are held at present is the property of the lodge. This is a two-story building, with a store room below and the lodge rooms above, and is valued at \$1,500. This lodge has an enrollment at present of one hundred and twenty members, and is a strong, active organization. Some forty of the members of this lodge belong to the encampment at Stanton. The regular meetings of the lodge are held on Monday of each week. The present officers are: H. W. Haysmer, noble grand; George F. Brown, vice-grand; R. E. Lower, recording secretary; John Abbott, financial secretary, and N. Carstensen, treasurer.

DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH AT SHERIDAN.

Rebekah Lodge No. 375, Daughters of Rebekah, was organized at Sheridan, February, 1902, and installed by President Francis Wessel. The charter members were: Evangeline Harris, Mirandy Cowen, Angie Morrison, Isabelle Spatch, Idella Forbes and Mae Mathewson. Evangeline Harris was chosen noble grand; Angie Morrison, vice-grand; Mae Mathewson, recording secretary; Idella Forbes, financial secretary; Isabella Spatch, treasurer. Cora Collier is now the noble grand; E. E. Moffatt, vice-grand; Pearl M. Griggs, recording secretary; Low M. Clement, financial secretary; Etta B. Greenhoe, treasurer. A two-story frame building is owned by the lodge. It was constructed in the year 1885, and purchased at a cost of \$2,000. They now have a membership of seventy-one.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

LeRoy Lodge No. 9, Knights of Pythias, of Greenville, Michigan, was organized on July 10, 1883, with the following charter members: W. A. White, William B. Wells, C. W. Hayden, C. J. Clark, C. J. Church, Joseph Ottmar, James Mills, Charles W. Passage, A. B. Stevens, J. B. Cushman, F. D. Leaming, E. C. Morris, W. E. Partlow, F. W. Allen, Henry Shope, George Douglass, M. C. Crane, W. G. Nelson, W. W. Slawson, L. Wright, C. W. Herrick, Joseph Lichtenaur, B. E. Avery, R. F. Sprague, Elliot Bradley, L. E. Morris, Leroy Moore, C. O. Jamison, A. W. Nichols, Charles Gibson, Charles Middleton, W. D. Johnson, W. H. Conover, George Turner.

The first officers were: William A. White, chancellor commander;

W. G. Nelson, vice-chancellor; Foster Allen, prelate; W. W. Slawson, master of exchequer; A. B. Stevens, keeper of records and seal; Joseph Ottmar, master at arms; Charles Hayden, outer guard; C. J. Clark, inner guard.

As is the history of nearly all lodges, LeRoy No. 9 had its lean as well as fat years, and the year 1890 found them with about fifty members. At that time C. J. Drummond, B. E. Avery, E. C. Merrett, J. C. Newbrough, W. N. George, W. B. Wells, D. C. Carlin, J. E. Van Wormer, George W. Perry and a number of others took an active interest in building up the lodge, with the result that in 1900 it had about eighty members and a substantial surplus in its treasury. From 1900 to 1906 nearly forty new members were added. Among them were the following enthusiastic working members: W. J. Kingsbury, H. N. Clement, C. C. Larke, K. S. Mason, F. G. Howard, R. M. Beardslee, C. B. Root, H. M. Grosvenor, M. E. Glass, J. H. Timmink and E. A. Gallaway. To this honor list should now be added R. A. Brown, S. A. Story, P. B. Lyman, C. B. Rarden, W. L. Rarden, Don L. Dickerson, Roy C. Bond, H. M. Glass, F. R. Hincklin, F. W. Harrington, R. H. Hale, I. C. Thomson, D. S. Seaman, and it is due to the active working interest of these members in particular that the membership on January 1, 1915, totals two hundred and seventy-five.

With eighteen past chancellors it is thought the united efforts of such men as these that an annual Christmas dinner and suitable presents of clothing and toys for each poor child in the city is given, and in 1914 a very successful street carnival was conducted, which netted the lodge \$1,000. A voluntary subscription fund was also raised in this year, which enabled them to elaborately equip one of the finest lodge and club rooms on the second floor of the State Bank building and also a ball room and banquet hall, with check rooms and a fully-equipped kitchen on the third floor. It is the proud boast of Pythians in Greenville that eighty per cent. of the business men of the city are members of LeRoy No. 9.

The present officers are as follow: D. S. Seaman, chancellor commander; R. M. Beardsley, vice-chancellor; D. L. Dickerson, prelate; F. W. Harrington, keeper of records and seal; Philo Rich, master at arms; H. M. Glass, master of finance; W. K. Ward, master of exchequer; J. E. Van Wormer, master of work; G. H. Rhodes, inner guard; H. Eastman, outer guard. H. N. Clement, of this lodge, is grand master of exchequer in the grand lodge of Michigan.

HOWARD CITY LODGE NO. 260.

Howard City Lodge No. 260, Knights of Pythias, was organized on December 19, 1913. It was installed by H. E. VanDewalker, with a large number of charter members. They are as follow: A. M. Cook, Sed V. Bullock, J. E. Bullock, H. M. Gibbs, W. J. Smith, F. L. Carnell, J. Arner, J. D. Bailey, C. C. Terwilliger, C. Crimmins, W. A. Brunner, J. L. Meier, B. E. Meier, L. B. Holmer, H. N. Vandenbeigh, W. Lish, Edward Sutton, A. T. Booth, L. A. Simpkins, R. S. Jennings, C. M. O'Donald, W. H. Collins, J. B. Haskins, C. E. Barton, F. M. May, C. Wolfe, L. W. Green, P. S. Woodall, D. W. Clapp, W. H. Gregg, C. G. Larry, Frank Reams, M. F. Butler, W. J. Dodge, N. W. Miller. The first officers to serve this lodge were: S. Jamer, chancellor commander; D. W. Clapp, vice-chancellor; L. W. Green, prelate; H. N. Vandenbiegh, master of work; A. T. Booth, keeper of records and seal; W. A. Brunner, master of finance; C. M. O'Donald, master of exchequer; R. S. Jennings, master at arms; J. L. Meier, inner guard; Frank Reams, outer guard.

Although this organization is not yet two years old, it boasts of a membership of forty-nine. The persons now holding offices are: D. W. Clapp, chancellor commander; H. N. Vandenbeigh, vice-chancellor; F. L. Carnell, prelate; J. L. Meier, kepeer of records and seal; S. Jarner, master of work; P. S. Woodall, master of finance; C. M. O'Donald, master of exchequer; L. S. Simpkins, master at arms; Frank Reams, inner guard; M. F. Butler, outer guard.

DANISH BROTHERHOOD SOCIETY.

Rosendale Lodge No. 70, Danish Brotherhood Society, at Greenville, was organized on November 30, 1893, and installed by Vigo A. Danielsen. The charter was granted to the following people: M. Skroder, N. Rosendal, Peter Hansen, W. Feldt, J. Peterson, P. Johnsen, H. W. Petersen, John C. Nielsen, C. Jorgensen, C. P. Christiansen, Frank Rasmussen, J. P. Jorgensen, Jacob Nielsen and J. P. Nielsen. Of these people the following were elected to serve as the first officers: M. Skroder, H. Petersen, N. Rosendal, P. Hansen, W. Feldt, C. Nielsen, J. Petersen, C. Jorgensen, J. P. Nielsen and C. P. Christiansen. The persons now holding offices are: Lars Jensen, Chris Heediman, M. Christensen, N. P. Hansen, H. Hansen, H. Mikelsen, P. Andersen, N. Rosendal and C. S. Johnsen. They have a present membership of one hundred and thirty.

PETERSEN'S MINDE SOCIETY NO. 181.

Petersen's Minde No. 181, Danish Brotherhood Society, at Sidney, was organized on October 10, 1903, and installed by Peter Madison, of Greenville. The following people made up the charter members: Hans P. Larsen, Martin Schroder, Lars P. Christiansen, Jens Petersen, Rasmus J. Rasmussen, Hans Iversen, J. P. Lamb, H. P. Nielsen, Carl C. Andersen, W. Rydahl, L. Jensen, W. C. Hansen, A. Thompson, N. J. Petersen, Peter E. Mathisen, Henrick A. Petersen, Johannes H. Nielsen, Niels J. Lamb, Martin J. Christensen, Peter Hansen, Frank G. Hansen, Simon M. Petersen, Marius T. Christensen, Fred W. Jensen and Fritz Schroder. They own a large hall, constructed at a cost of \$1,500.

CHRISTENSEN LODGE NO. 163.

Christensen Lodge No. 163, Danish Brotherhood Society, at Edmore, was organized on March 14, 1903, and installed by C. Christensen. The following people were chosen the first officers: N. C. Hansen, ex-president; P. M. Mortensen, president; L. P. Christensen, vice-president; F. Jensen, secretary; N. C. Jorgensen, treasurer; trustees, Alfred Hansen, A. Jensen and J. P. Jorgensen; N. Larsen, inner guard; G. Nielsen, outer guard. In 1912 a new frame building was put up, at a cost of \$1,600. The lodge is a very prosperous and busy one, and its membership numbers fifty-six. The present officers are: P. M. Mortensen, ex-president; John Mathusen, president; N. C. Jorgensen, vice-president; Albert A. Petersen, secretary; J. P. Jensen, treasurer; trustees, P. Sorensen, H. H. Hansen and J. C. Hansen; inner guard, N. C. Hansen; outer guard, H. P. Christensen.

DANISH BROTHERHOOD LODGE NO. 106.

Lodge No. 106, Danish Brotherhood Society, was organized at Trufant on December 27, 1897, and was installed by Christopher Winther, a delegate from Greenville Lodge No. 70. There were twenty-six charter members, as follow: Conrad Christensen, J. P. Paulsen, O. P. Olsen, C. F. Hansen, N. P. Olsen, A. P. Larsen, J. Paulsen, J. P. Jensen, N. P. Mortensen, H. P. Jensen, N. P. Jensen, N. P. Nielsen, O. N. Johnson, H. P. Larsen, P. Nielsen, H. Olsen, J. Larsen, T. S. Jensen, O. Jensen, S. C. Mortensen, N. Petersen, O. P. Antonsen, F. Haagen, C. Hansen, G. P. Rasmussen and H. P. Simonsen. The following were chosen to the various offices: Conrad

Christensen, president; J. P. Paulsen, vice-president; O. P. Olsen, ex-president; C. F. Hansen, secretary; N. P. Olsen, treasurer; A. P. Larsen, leader; H. P. Jensen, inner guard; N. P. Jensen, outer guard; J. Paulsen, J. P. Jensen and N. P. Mortensen were the trustees.

At the last business meeting the following persons were elected officers: C. C. Weinrich, president; C. Frandsen, vice-president; M. Mortensen, ex-president; P. C. Paulsen, secretary; L. P. Jensen, treasurer; H. P. Christiansen, leader; J. P. Petersen, inner guard; H. P. Larson, outer guard; A. Jensen, F. S. Jensen and J. Paulsen were the trustees. The total membership in October, 1915, was one hundred and sixty-six. The lodge owns their own hall, which was dedicated on October 30, 1901. The building is a frame structure, twenty-four by seventy, which was constructed at a cost of \$700, and this is without the cost of labor, as all the members helped in putting up the building. They also own a horse barn, which has room for forty horses.

DANISH SISTERHOOD AT TRUFANT.

Anna Lodge No. 64, Danish Sisterhood, was organized at Trufant, December 27, 1912, with thirty-two charter members. The first officers were as follow: Emma Jokerson, ex-president; Anna Christensen, president; Marie Rasmussen, vice-president; Stine M. Larsen, secretary; Christine Hansen, treasurer; Anna Nielsen, leader; Marie Andersen, Christine Petersen and Marie Christensen were the trustees; Juliane Weinrich, inner guard; Stine Simonsen, outer guard. The present officers are: Mrs. Anna Antonsen, ex-president; Line Jensen, president; Christine Hansen, vice-president; Marie Beruth, secretary; Karen Jensen, treasurer; Camilla Frandsen, leader; trustees, Marie Rasmussen, Nina Hansen and Ida Hansen; Mina Earl, inside guard; Anna Nielsen, outer guard. In October, 1915, they had seventy-eight active and three passive members.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

Greenville Camp No. 3789, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized on April 17, 1896, with the following charter members: J. P. Johnson, W. C. Johnson, William Abbey, Asa P. Borier, W. H. Brown, E. G. Carel, George L. Cole, Herbert Decker, J. C. Denison, Percy Edsal, W. F. Farnsworth, Archer Forsythe, Charles Finch, Valdemer Feldt, E. G. Higgins, J. Gracy, Charles Hamper, J. Henkel, M. G. Hillman, L. W. Hyde, C. Jorgensen, J. S. Kemp, Judd Martin, Edward Lincoln, L. C. Lincoln, J. A. Long-

street, A. Magee, Edward Magee, Homer Magee, John Peterson, C. P. Rodgers, J. A. Rhoads, Z. Ridley, G. B. Starr, J. H. Serviss, Warren Serviss, F. C. Stephenson, F. A. Spaulding, M. A. Tyler, J. Wagner, Alva Weeks, J. C. Wright, C. C. Wilson and S. Woodworth. The old book of records has been lost, so the early history of this lodge is shrouded in mystery, but it is remembered that Percy Edsal was the first vice-consul, and W. Serviss was the clerk. The present officers are: G. H. Chandler, vice-consul; A. Martin, worthy advisor; L. C. Lincoln, clerk; H. Eastman, treasurer; T. Shepherd, escort.

M'BRIDE CAMP NO. 10504.

McBride Camp No. 10504, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized on February 24, 1914, and installed by Deputy John F. Cary. The following persons constituted the charter members: Daniel C. Bell, William N. Boice, David E. Brooks, William Giles, Robert Hamilton, Alfred V. Hansen, Sylvester Hissing, Toval G. C. Johnson, Lewis M. McLean, Delbert Pulsipher, Frank Sloan, George W. Strickland, Guy E. Switzer and William W. Gould. The first officers chosen to serve this association were: Venerable consul, William N. Boice; worthy advisor, William W. Gould; eminent banker, D. C. Bell; clerk, George W. Strickland; escort, Sylvester Hissing; watchman, David E. Brooks; sentry, William Giles; physician, D. C. Bell; trustees, Toval G. C. Johnson, Lewis McLean and Alfred Hansen. The lodge prospered until 1912 when the head camp undertook to raise the rate and then twelve members dropped out before they understood what the increased rate was for. But ten new members were added in April, 1915, so that made up for part of the loss, making the total number of members thirty-two. Only two death claims have been paid during the history of the lodge. The persons now holding offices are: Jesse C. Reagon, past consul; Ferris C. Arnold, venerable consul; John Miles, worthy advisor; S. C. Mortensen, eminent banker; Ardoh C. McCall, clerk; C. C. McCrea, escort; C. P. McCrea, watchman; Alfred Anderson, sentry. The board of managers is composed of the following members: Claud Brail, H. K. Neilsen and C. C. McCrea.

BALL CAMP NO. 5814.

Ball Camp No. 5814, Modern Woodmen of America, at Langston, was organized on November 4, 1898, and installed by S. S. Carr, with the following charter members: John Wilcox, John Korter, Fred Ball, George

Covling, Chancey Sparks, James Clifford, W. Taylor, C. C. Sayler, L. L. Hinkley, Will Forll, Leroy Sayler, Fred Briggs, L. B. Benedict and Joe Rederstorf. The first officers chosen were John Wilcox, venerable consul; John Korter, worthy advisor; Fred Ball, eminent banker; G. A. Covling, clerk; C. Sparks, escort; J. Clifford, watchman; W. Taylor, secretary; C. C. Sayles, physician. The present officers are Walter McHattie, venerable consul; William Force, worthy advisor; Fred Ball, eminent banker; John Wilcox, clerk. Their present membership is twelve.

LAKEVIEW CAMP NO. 3240.

Lakeview Camp No. 3240, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized on September 5, 1895, with the following charter members: Dan Brimmer, Will Charnley, I. O. Chapman, A. B. Dickerson, A. J. Diehrn, Duncan Fink, C. E. Green, E. D. Rhodes, E. B. Stebbins, Robert Scurrah, C. W. Welch, Josiah White, S. E. Young and N. H. Youngman. The first officers included C. E. Green, venerable consul; R. Scurrah, worthy advisor; N. H. Youngman, clerk; E. B. Stebbins, eminent banker; Duncan Fink, escort; E. D. Rhodes and S. E. Young; Dr. F. R. Blanchard, physician; A. B. Dickerson, A. J. Diehrn and Josiah White, managers.

THE TRIBE OF BEN-HUR.

Howard City Court No. 35, Tribe of Ben-Hur, was organized on July 18, 1898, and was installed by George Shoults. Following are the charter members: E. J. Bast, Margaret Woodall, Joseph Woodall, James Totten Joseph Woodall, Jr., W. A. Hurlburt, T. B. Ensley, Etta Whitfield, Lee Whitfield, Mary Bast, Frank Jones, James Baty, William Templeman, John Baty, Isabelle Baty and Flora Larry. At the first meeting the following persons were chosen to look after the interests of this new organization: Earnest Bast, chief; Margaret Woodall, judge; W. A. Hurlburt, teacher; Fren Ensley, scribe; Etta Whitfield, keeper of tribute; L. E. Whitfield, captain; Joseph Woodall, guide; Mary Baty, keeper of inner gate; Frank Jones, keeper of outer gate. This is a lively little organization which takes a goodly interest in their work. They hold their meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month, and once a month they have a program with a supper following. The present officers are as follow: George Davidson, chief; Flora Larry, judge; Florence Vandenburg, teacher; Harriet Woodall, scribe; Charles Vandenburg, keeper of tribute; Prentice Woodall, captain; Henry Oppen,

guide; Charles Bogardus, keeper of outer gate; Austin Barber, keeper of inner gate.

CORAL COURT NO. 38.

Coral Court No. 38, Tribe of Ben-Hur, was organized at Coral on January 27, 1899, and installed by Doctor Shultz with the following charter members: George Armitage, Dr. E. William Bolio, George Masters, Mertie Tuck, Sarah E. Holcomb, Eliza V. Armitage, James F. Kyle, Augusta Wright, Charles M. Holcomb, Ellen Durst, Mary L. Holcomb, Alice Wilson, Harry Minore, F. A. Holcomb and Mary L. Horton. The first officers were George Armitage, chief; Dr. E. William Bolio, past chief; George Masters, teacher; Mrs. Mertie Tuck, judge; Mrs. S. E. Holcomb, scribe; Eliza Armitage, guard; A. Wright, keeper of inner gate; Fred Kyle, keeper of outer gate; Charles M. Holcomb, captain; Ellen Durst, keeper of tribute. Charles M. Holcomb is now the chief, and Augusta Wright is the scribe and keeper of tribute. The present membership is twenty-nine.

ROYAL ARCANUM.

Greenville Council No. 622, Royal Arcanum, was organized on October 22, 1881, and installed by H. E. W. Campbell. The charter was granted to the following members: A. W. Nichols, D. Jacobson, G. H. Palethorp, H. Starr, J. L. Van Wormer, S. L. Tyler, C. L. Gilmour, D. D. Clough, F. W. Baker, William Maxted, G. W. Turner, R. F. Sprague, W. Knapp, D. A. Towle, A. S. Contant, W. H. Conover, and of these the following were elected officers: William Maxted, regent; G. W. Turner, vice-regent; R. F. Sprague, orator; W. Knapp, past regent; D. A. Towle, secretary; A. S. Contant, collector; W. H. Conover, treasurer. The persons who now have the vital interests of this lodge in hand are: J. L. Van Wormer, regent; L. C. Lincoln, secretary; J. E. Van Wormer, collector; A. O. Derby, treasurer; William B. Wells, orator. It is of interest to know that this is the only Royal Arcanum lodge in the county.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA.

Mistletoe Camp No. 1216, Royal Neighbors of America, was organized at Greenville on November 29, 1898, with the following charter members: Mrs. Maggie Baker, Mrs. Hannah Bass, Mrs. Lena Bass, Mrs. Pearl Blanchard, Dr. F. R. Blanchard, Mrs. Grace Brimmer, Mrs. Grace Charn-

ley, Mrs. Anna Crandall, Mrs. Flora Derrick, Mrs. Octavia Dickerson, Mary J. Carfton, Dora Finch, Mary J. French, Teresa Goldstein, Nellie Hollier, Minnie Hummiston, M. A. Johnson, Miss Mercer, Nettie Pierce, Marianne Scurrah, Sabina Simmons, Minnie Smith, May Vining and Anna Youngman. The camp was installed by Mrs. Hattie Lombard, of Grand Rapids. The first officers of the camp were: Marianne Scurrah, past oracle; Dora Finch, oracle; Pearl Blanchard, vice-oracle; Hattie Beard, chancellor; Clara Fink, recorder; Mary J. French, receiver; Minnie Hummiston, marshal; Nettie Pierce, assistant marshal; M. A. Johnson, inner sentinel.

The present officers include Nora Peterson, past oracle; Laura Kirtland, oracle; Sabina Simmons, vice-oracle; Nettie Pierce, chancellor; Ella Cole, recorder; Marianne Scurrah, receiver; Jennie Swarthout, marshal; Grace Seat, assistant marshal; Ellen Brown, inner sentinel; Flora Hackett, outer sentinel; Emma Richer, Mattie Strang and Julia Seat, managers; Dr. L. E. Kelsey, physician.

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

During the administration of President Johnson, in 1866, the agricultural affairs in the South were in such a deplorable state that it was decided to study the conditions among the farmers and ascertain if something could not be done for their betterment. The President decided to place this work under the jurisdiction of the department of agriculture, and Isaac Newton, who was then commissioner of agriculture, was placed in charge of the work. O. H. Kelley, of Minnesota, who was then a clerk in the agricultural department, was sent south to study the conditions among the farmers. On his return he made a report which disclosed such a frightful state of affairs that the idea of organizing the farmers into a society was determined. This society was known as the Patrons of Husbandry, or Grangers, and the national grange was organized at Washington, D. C., December 4, 1867. The first national officers were: William Sanders, District of Columbia, master; J. R. Thompson, Vermont, lecturer; Anson Bartlett, Ohio, steward; A. B. Grosh, Pennsylvania, chaplain; William Ireland, Pennsylvania, treasurer; O. H. Kelley, secretary; E. P. Farris, Illinois, gatekeeper.

Dispensations were granted by the national grange to the following cities: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, first; Fredonia, New York, second; Columbus, Ohio, third. The agricultural bulletin of October 4, 1873, showed granges to the number of six thousand nine hundred and fourteen in the United States.

Michigan followed soon after. Her share of granges and although the agricultural interests in Montcalm county had not reached that period of growth which they did at a later time, still as early as 1874 a grange was organized in this county.

Montcalm Grange No. 318, which was the first grange organized in the county, was incorporated under the laws of Michigan on March 9, 1874. There were thirty-five charter members in this grange and the names of the first officers are as follow: Stephen Rossman, master; Chester P. Baker, overseer; Henry S. Sharp, lecturer; L. C. Lincoln, steward; Charles Snyder, secretary. The dispensation from the national grange for the organization of this subordinate grange was issued and a charter granted on July 8, 1874, by the national master, Dudley W. Adams, and secretary, O. H. Kelley. This was passed and recorded by the state grange of Michigan on August 1, 1874. S. F. Brown was the state master at that time and J. F. Cobb, state secretary. Thus the first grange in Montcalm county came into existence and the seed of this order was sown in Montcalm county.

In the spring of 1875 the second grange was organized in this county. Joseph Minier was the chief worker in the furthering of this lodge which was organized in Bushnell township and held its initial meeting in June with one hundred and sixteen charter members present. At the time of the organization of this grange it was the strongest that had ever been organized in the state and as evidence of the enthusiasm with which this order was received it is noted the membership five years later had increased to two hundred and five members in good standing.

Since that time there has been a steady increase in the number of granges organized in the county. As the agricultural interests became more active and the attention of the landowners was turned to farming a greater number of granges sprung up. At the present time there is a strong county Pomona.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Stanton Post No. 37, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized at Stanton the 5th of December, 1881, with twenty-three charter members. The first officers of the post were H. H. Hinds, commander; B. B. Clark, senior vice-commander; J. W. Wheeler, junior vice-commander; Jesse Holcomb, quartermaster; Asa Morse, surgeon; Gideon Dingman, chaplain; H. P. Norton, officer of the day; F. C. Rowley, officer of the guard; J. C. Percival, adjutant; J. W. Bigelow, sergeant major; Fred Nye, quartermaster sergeant. The officers of this post were installed by George E. Judd, of

Grand Rapids. Present location of post is on the north side of Main street over C. H. Carother's store. The present membership is sixteen. The present officers are: T. N. Smith, commander; C. R. Bellows, senior vice-commander; F. M. Warner, junior vice-commander; J. H. Tishue, quartermaster; John Hall, chaplain; J. H. Tilshue, officer of the day; C. H. Loomis, officer of the guard, and J. A. Crocker, adjutant.

MONTCALM POST NO. 176.

Montcalm Post No. 176, Grand Army of the Republic, at Stanton, was organized on December 5, 1895, Capt. Thomas N. Stevens being the father of the post. The charter members were as follow: Capt. T. N. Stevens, Lieut. J. C. Percival, Capt. H. M. Hempstead, Henry H. House, Joshua B. Krebs, John C. Grooms, Edwin D. Childs, Charles H. Miner, John D. Sutherland, A. J. Rickard, David Hopkins, John Shauman, Hiram H. Lowe, George E. Barber and Thomas Burns. Henry M. Hempstead was chosen as first commander; Thomas N. Stevens, adjutant, and James Percival, quartermaster. John C. Grooms is now serving as commander, John B. Cole as vice-commander, and Henry M. Hempstead is the adjutant and quartermaster. This post started with sixteen members and during the following seven years thirty-six additional members were secured. A few have moved to other towns or dropped out and thirty are known to be dead, and only seven members remain in the post.

WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS.

William A. Kent Lodge No. 14, Woman's Relief Corps, was organized at Greenville in 1884, and installed by Ella W. Shank, deputy president, with the following charter members: Mrs. Mary Gibson, Nancy Johnson, Lucinda Hetett, Amanda Seaman, Mary Shaffer, Martha Middleton, Jane Clase, Frankie Newton, Leonora Coon, Mary Trask, Mary Bates, Julia Hansen, Miranda Griffith, Amelia Hornig, Elizabeth Elsworth, Alice Strong, Sarah Slaght, Martha Jones, Josephine Everett, Calista Van Wormer, Minnie Cole, Sonia Spencer and Julia Frayser. The first officers were as follow: Mrs. Anna Chase, president; Mrs. Hattie Padden, vice-president; Mrs. Hattie Turner, junior vice-president; Mrs. Anna Grabill, secretary; Mrs. Jennie Haydon, treasurer; Mrs. Carrie Barbor, inspector; Mrs. Fanny Tower, conductor; Mrs. Agnes Gibson, guard; Mrs. Amanda Belknap, chaplain. They hold their meetings in the city hall, and the membership has

reached a total of fifty-four. Augusta Blanchard is the present president; Laura King, senior vice-president; Elizabeth Gray, junior vice-president; Florence Beach, secretary; Myrta Shenfield, treasurer; Alfreda Fries, chaplain; Fmeline Elliott, conductor; Frances Atwood, guard; Alwilda Edsall, assistant conductor; Sally Cora, assistant guard. The color bearers are as follow: First color bearer, Anna Ziegenfuss; second, Margaret Bingham; third, Jennie Peek; fourth, Mary Surhoff. The patriotic instructor is Cordelia Rhoades, the press correspondent is Alwild Edsall and the musician is Jessie Hale.

STANTON LODGE NO. 9.

Stanton Lodge No. 9, Woman's Relief Corps, was organized at Stanton on February 29, 1884, with Mary S. Hinds as president. The National Woman's Relief Corps was organized at Denver, Colorado, in 1883, with E. Florence Barker as first national president. On April 2, 1884, the Department of Michigan, Woman's Relief Corps, was organized at Lansing. Therefore, lodge No. 9 is older than the department. Corps No. 9 was organized with the following charter members: Mary E. Hinds, Mary Nye, Estella E. Moore, Harriet Youngs, Elmira Finch, Carrie E. Stevens, Maria Lucus, Maggie Weatherwax, Mary Caruthers, Catherine Hubbard, Percia Hempstead, Maggie Roller, Hannah Colburn, Mary Miller, Jane Waldo, Sarah Ball, Naomi Barden, Emma Hughes, Henrietta Estes, Mary Butler, Mary E. Grooms, Lu E. S. Towle, Mary E. Stevens, Diana Dingman, Jennie E. Childs, Marie Vorhies, Alice Paris and Sybil E. Graisley.

The purpose of this organization is to teach patriotism and to help needy veterans of the Civil War. Its watchwords are: Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty. The members of corps No. 9 have worked zealously for this purpose and in spite of discouragements have done much to instill love of country and relieve distress.

Past presidents of the corps are as follow: 1884, Mary S. Hinds; 1885, Carrie E. Stevens; 1886, Mary E. Nye; 1887, Bertha E. Smith; 1888, Mary E. Ball; 1889, Carrie B. Stevens; 1890-91, Mary Underwood; 1892, Elmira Finch; 1893, Estella L. Moore; 1894, Matilda Weed; 1895, Mattie Valentine; 1896, Lizzie Hallet; 1897, Mary E. Holcombe; 1898, Louisa E. Elliot; 1899, Sybil Brown; 1900, Cassie McBain; 1901-03, Louisa E. Elliot; 1904, Ella Pickard; 1905, Rosa Pickell; 1906, Esther Newman; 1907, Maggie Roller; 1908-12, Louisa E. Elliot; 1913, Esther Newman; 1914-16, Louisa E. Elliot.

The corps now has a membership of seventy-three, with the following

officers: Louisa E. Elliot, president; Ida V. Wilcox, secretary; Esther Newman, treasurer. Many honors have been brought to corps No. 9 by its members who have been elected to office in the district, department and national organizations.

McCOOK'S LODGE NO. 247.

McCook's Lodge No. 247, Woman's Relief Corps, was organized at McBride, April 5, 1897, and was installed by Mary Sherwood Hinds with twenty-six charter members. The first officers were as follow: Mrs. Susan Neff, president; Stella Neff, secretary; Mrs. John Perkins, treasurer; Mrs. Lewis Perkins, chaplain. Mrs. M. Deja is now the president; Mrs. H. Bush, secretary; Mrs. Maude Neff, treasurer; Mrs. George Carpenter, chaplain. This organization was very fortunate in having their lodge building donated to them as a gift. Present membership is thirty-one.

MONTCALM LODGE NO. 53.

Montcalm Lodge No. 53, Woman's Relief Corps, was organized on January 20, 1896, at Stanton, by Martha Herryman and installed by Henry Hemstead, with the following list of charter members: Carolyn E. Stevens, Mary J. Krebs, Ruth Burns, Jennie Childs, Jennie E. Crum, Mary J. Barber, Helen Bennett, Eleanor E. Youngs, Eva Shannon, and ten others whose names cannot be obtained. Eleanor Youngs was chosen the first president; Mary McNutt, treasurer.

The present officers are: Anna M. Tamm, president; Lucy H. Krebs, senior vice-president; Carolyn E. Stevens, secretary; Mary E. Grooms, treasurer; Fannie L. Cole, chaplain; Lucy M. Disbrow, conductor; Belle Blindbury, guard; Lelia Chase, assistant conductor; Carrie Butterworth, assistant guard; C. E. Stevens, press correspondent; M. J. Barber, patriotic instructor; Mary J. Barber, musician. The present membership is thirty.

CHAPTER XXX.

BANKS OF MONTCALM COUNTY.

The banks and the banking interests of Montcalm county have gone through all of the successive financial changes which the county has experienced. These institutions have experienced the same prosperity and reverses which marked the history of the county that came through the great prosperity during the pine timber era and reached the lowest ebb after this natural resource had been ruthlessly slaughtered and finally was exhausted. At the time this industry was at its height, many banks were established and apparently were on a firm financial basis, but when large timber interests which were also thought to be strong financially began to fail they generally carried some bank along with them. So that the life of the banks in this county, with a few exceptions, is divided into two different periods, namely, during the timber period and then when the county had taken on an agricultural existence and a more stable basis and a firmer foundation had been reached.

The oldest existing bank in the county dates its organization from 1887, while the major percentage have been organized since 1897. It is true, however, that a few of the banks of the present day were outgrowths of some of the earlier banks, while in one or two cases a bank of the present day was organized and retained the good will of the one which had previously existed in the same locality. It is true that there have been a great number of failures in the field of banking in this county and this came with the great prosperity and then when the different interests of the county reached the bottom the banks were not able to meet such reverses and had to close their doors.

The new era in Montcalm which could rightly be called the agricultural era, just as that period from 1876 to 1892 could be called the pine timber era, brought with it a rock basis to work on. The banks of the county are all doing a nice business and while some are not as large as others they all seem to be on a firm footing where they can insure safety to their depositors. The individual history of the active banks of the county follows.

STATE SAVINGS BANK OF STANTON.

The State Savings Bank of Stanton first began business on June 1, 1895, as a private bank under the firm name of C. W. French & Company. The banking business of Stanton at that time had been at a rather low ebb owing to the general wave of depression which was sweeping over the country as a result of the exhaustion of the timber. This bank was started by C. W. French and continued as a private bank until September 3, 1901, when it was incorporated as a state bank under the name which it now bears. The original incorporators of the state bank were as follow: Fred Messenger, Benson L. Gaffield, Patrick J. Divine, Charles H. LaFlamboy, Louis Neff, John Finnegan, Sherman Neff, L. C. Palmer, Eugene Straight, John Dallavo, John W. S. Pierson, Curtis Ball and C. W. French. The capital stock was \$20,000, which was divided into two hundred shares of one hundred dollars each and has remained the same up to the present time.

The first officers of this institution were Fred R. Messenger, president; Patrick J. Divine, vice-president; Charles W. French, cashier. The officers have remained the same as at first with the exception of Benson L. Gaffield who succeeded Patrick J. Divine as vice-president; also the election of William S. French as assistant cashier. This is one of the strong financial institutions of the county and on a firm basis as shown by the fact that the shares of stock are in demand and sell greatly above par. This bank does a savings and commercial business and according to the statement for 1915 had deposits amounting to \$225,000 with surplus and undivided profits of \$10,000. The building in which the bank is located is the property of the bank and is valued at \$6,000, with fixtures valued at \$2,000.

GREENVILLE STATE BANK.

The State Bank of Greenville was organized on April 21, 1896, with the following named persons as organizers and first stockholders: C. Jesse Church, F. N. Wright, C. W. Johnson, Mary E. Taylor, Eugene Rutan, Charles A. Church, F. S. Gibson, W. H. Browne, W. D. Johnson, Rebecca L. Ellsworth, O. C. McDonnell and Cass T. Wright. The first officers to serve the bank were: F. N. Wright, president; C. J. Church, first vice-president; W. D. Johnson, second vice-president; W. H. Browne, cashier. The capital stock was placed at \$25,000. Frank S. Gibson is the present president; E. Rutan and C. H. Gibson are the vice-presidents; W. H. Browne

is the cashier, in which capacity he served since the organization of the bank. The bank occupies a substantial three-story brick building which cost \$12,500. The beautiful fixtures are in keeping with the building and are valued at \$3,000. According to the last statement of this bank it has deposits amounting to \$475,000 and a surplus of \$25,000.

O'DONALDS BANK OF HOWARD CITY.

The present O'Donalds Bank of Howard City was organized by N. W. Mather in 1872 with a capital stock of \$25,000. Mr. Mather stood at the helm of this bank until 1895 when he sold it to R. H. O'Donald and Stephen C. Scott. They continued in business under the firm name of O'Donald & Scott up to the death of Mr. Scott in 1910. Now Mr. O'Donald has sole charge of the bank and is running a fine business. The building occupied by the bank is made of brick, and was constructed at a cost of \$5,000. The fixtures are carried at \$2,600. The last statement of the bank shows deposits amounting to \$350,000 and a surplus of \$45,000.

COMMERCIAL STATE SAVINGS BANK.

The Commercial State Savings Bank of Greenville was organized on September 2, 1902, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The following persons were the organizers and first stockholders: D. K. Black, C. V. Coats, C. A. Miller, T. J. Potter, K. L. Paine, E. A. Kemp, Paul Van Deinse, O. C. Miller, Silas Kent, F. D. Briggs, E. S. Rowley, C. H. Wells and R. J. Tower. T. J. Potter served as first president and served in this capacity until January, 1904. F. E. Ranney was then elected and has been president ever since. D. K. Black and C. A. Miller were the first vice-presidents and C. V. Coats the first cashier and all three men have retained their respective offices. The last statement shows deposits amounting to \$475,000, with a surplus of \$30,000.

SIX LAKES STATE BANK.

The State Bank of Six Lakes was organized on the 30th of November, 1914, with a capital stock of \$20,000. William J. Orr, William H. Wallace, George Bilbrough, Aaron Amon, Andrew W. Orr and Benjamin F. Plumby were the organizers and first shareholders of this bank. Of these persons William J. Orr was chosen president; Aaron Amon, vice-president, Benjamin F. Plumby, cashier. These persons are still taking care of the interests of

the bank. The bank building, which is located on Clark street, is constructed of cement blocks and presents a very pleasing appearance. The fixtures are valued at \$1,500. The last statement of this bank shows the deposits to be \$31,270.30.

PEOPLES STATE BANK.

The People's State Bank of Edmore was originally organized or rather established by E. S. Wagar, in 1897, who managed it as a private bank under the name of E. S. Wagar's Bank. In 1908 Mr. Wagar incorporated it as a state bank and gave it the name which it now bears. The original capital stock was placed at \$20,000 and this has never been changed. The first officers were E. S. Wagar, president; William A. Wood, vice-president; Harry E. Wagar, cashier. Mr. Wagar served at the helm of this bank until his death in 1914 and in his seventeen years as head of this institution he always tried to conduct the business of the bank to the best interests of the stockholders and patrons. William A. Wood succeeded Mr. Wagar to the presidency with James Purdon as vice-president and Harry E. Wagar retained the position of cashier. The bank is on a firm financial basis with deposits in 1915 amounting to \$150,000 and a surplus of \$3,000. This bank is situated in a beautiful and commodious bank building which was erected at a cost of \$4,000. It is beautifully furnished with fixtures valued at \$2,000.

CORAL BANK.

The Coral Bank was organized in the village of Coral in 1906. Paul R. Dinsmore and Stephen M. Dinsmore were the organizers and first stockholders of this bank, which was incorporated for \$10,000. The first officers were Paul R. Dinsmore, president, and Stephen M. Dinsmore, vice-president and cashier. April 21, 1908, this bank was organized as the State Bank of Montcalm County with a capital stock of \$20,000, with the following stockholders: Thomas Hill, J. Stewart Newell, Hugh S. Newell, W. D. Day, Robert P. Skeoch, Sr., Frank W. Bailey, Wesley Taylor, E. A. Bartlett, Charles D. Richard, John Doe, Lincoln Avery, Nelson J. Fuehr, Elizabeth Bartlett, Paul R. Dinsmore and D. M. Dinsmore. The present officers are J. S. Newell, president; Thomas Hill and Van S. Reynolds, vice-presidents; S. M. Dinsmore, cashier; H. S. Newell, assistant cashier. The present directors are J. S. Newell, H. S. Newell, P. R. Dinsmore, Thomas Hill, Van S. Reynolds, A. N. Shook, W. E. Arbogast and M. C. Arbogast. This bank has deposits at present aggregating \$110,000, with a surplus of

\$5,000. The bank building was constructed of red brick at a cost of \$4,172.50 and the fixtures, which amount to \$2,200, are highly in keeping with the beautiful building.

BANK OF SHERIDAN.

The Bank of Sheridan was organized on June 22, 1903, with D. H. Power and B. B. Power as the organizers and stockholders. The bank was under this direction, however, only until December, 1904, when another co-partnership was formed, which was composed of E. Burt Jenney and D. H. Power, one of the former owners. It was not destined to remain under this management, for in April, 1905, C. S. Jenny became the partner of E. Burt Jenny. Mr. Jenny then conducted this bank for many years and served his patrons well. It grew to be a very prosperous business, but finally it began to decline and in April, 1914, it passed into the hands of Slocum, Ealy & Hudson, the present owners of the bank. All are experienced bankers. Mr. Ealy is a member of the Ealy-McNair Company of Clare, Michigan, who own and operate many banks in the "Thumb" of Michigan. Mr. Hudson is manager of the firm's banks and cashier of the Peoples State Bank, Middleton, Michigan. Mr. Slocum is the founder of the Gleaner Order with headquarters at Detroit. The present capital stock is \$12,000 with a personal responsibility of more than \$100,000. The bank building is constructed of veneered brick at a cost of \$4,000, and the fixtures, which are of quartered oak and marble, are valued at \$2,000. The business of the bank has grown steadily and rapidly since the new owners have stood at the helm. The officers now serving this bank are: Grant H. Slocum, president; John M. Ealy, vice-president; John R. Hudson, cashier, and Burt C. Crawford, assistant cashier.

BANK OF BUTTERNUT.

The Bank of Butternut was organized in 1907 by J. J. Phelps, now of Stanton, Michigan, who sold it to Slocum, Ealy & Hudson on September 1, 1909. The new firm built a modern building in the summer of 1913, and equipped it with modern furniture, fine screw-door, burglar-proof safe, and an electrical burglar-proof vault made by the American Bank Protection Company. The building is brick, substantially built, well finished and affording conveniences for the public. It is managed as a private bank and has a very flourishing business. They have a capital stock of \$15,000, with

a personal responsibility of more than \$100,000, and deposits of almost \$100,000. Grant H. Slocum is the president of this bank, John M. Ealy, and John R. Hudson are the vice-presidents, Claire C. Reynolds the cashier, and I. M. Merrifield is the assistant cashier.

STATE BANK OF CRYSTAL.

The State Bank of Crystal was organized on August 6, 1915, and opened for business November 3, with a capital stock of \$20,000. The following named persons comprised the list of shareholders: Edward C. Cummings, Ira Cummings, James D. Smith, Joseph M. Lascelle, James H. Steere, Edward A. Durkee, Cornelius De Young, William B. Frisbie, Milo Strait, Renelds B. Noll, Herbert Bowen, Thomas J. McCracken, Laura H. Cummings, Minnie J. Cummings, Zacharias D. Rule, Charles L. Kimball, William S. George, Job Reynolds, Rayburn B. Smith, Lucy Kimball, Fred Kimball, Fred T. Kimball, and Marchand J. McConkie. R. B. Smith was elected president; F. T. Kimball, vice-president; E. C. Cummings and Ira Cummings, directors, and C. M. Granger, cashier. This bank is the successor to the Bank of Crystal and its correspondent banks are the Chase National Bank, of New York City, and the State Bank, of Carson City, Michigan.

COMMERCIAL SAVINGS BANK.

The Commercial Savings Bank of Lakeview was organized on July 1, 1905, with C. M. Northrop and F. M. Northrop. The original capital stock of this bank was \$15,000, with responsibilities of \$40,000. C. M. Northrop was the first president and has served the bank in that capacity ever since the organization. F. M. Northrop has held the office of cashier for an equal length of time. The deposits of this bank according to the last statement were \$65,000, with a surplus of \$15,000. The present building was erected at a cost of \$4,000.

EDMORE STATE BANK.

The Edmore State Bank was organized on April 5, 1897, with a capital stock of \$15,000. John W. Pfeifler, Frederick Neff, Sherman Neff, Henry J. Burch and E. A. Rundell were the organizers of this bank and the first stockholders. The first officers were John W. Pfeifler, president; Frederick Neff, vice-president; Sherman Neff, vice-president; E. A. Rundell, cashier.

The original capital stock of \$15,000 has never been changed. The present officers are John W. Pfeiffer, president; Sherman Neff, Henry J. Burch and E. K. Horton, vice-presidents; Sorenus D. Ketchum, cashier. The last statement of this bank shows deposits amounting to \$155,000, with a surplus of \$10,000. Mr. Pfeiffer has served as the president of this bank for eighteen years and it is one of the strong financial institutions of this part of the county at the present time. The present location is in a one-story brick building in the village of Edmore.

TRUFANT EXCHANGE BANK.

The Trufant Exchange Bank was organized and established in 1907 as a private bank with Carl F. Hansen as proprietor. The deposits of this bank amount to about \$100,000 at the present time. This bank is still under the proprietorship of Mr. Hansen and is on a strong financial basis.

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS STATE BANK.

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank was incorporated in the village of Lakeview, October 24, 1904, for \$25,000. The shareholders of this bank were: Lars P. Sorenson, John S. Weidman, John J. Bale, John W. Kirtland, Robert Edgar, George E. Humiston, James Fontaine, Chester Stebbins, Solomon Gittleman, Melvin Hull, John D. Morton, John H. Jenson, August Keppe, Charles F. French, John Wandell, Wallace Edgar, Jonathan Tribe, Frank E. Moore and Salem F. Kennedy.

STATE BANK OF VESTABURG.

The Bank of Vestaburg was started as a private bank on January 4, 1909 by the Wallace & Orr Company, of Bay Port, Michigan, as the organizers. The stockholders at that time were William J. Orr, of Bay Port, Michigan; William H. Wallace, of Saginaw, Michigan; George Billbrough, of Remus, Michigan. Ed. C. Cramer at that time was the cashier, and remained as such until February 1, 1914. The State Bank of Vestaburg took over the holdings of the Bank of Vestaburg and their charter was granted, May 2, 1911. The capital stock was \$20,000. The first officers for the present organization were William J. Orr, president; William H. Wallace, vice-president; Edward C. Cramer, cashier. The directors were George Billbrough, Edward Cramer, Andrew W. Orr and E. J. Orr. The

present capital stock is \$20,000, with a surplus of \$3,300. The present officers are as follow: William J. Orr, president; George Bilbrough, vice-president; Thomas D. Meddick, cashier, and the directors are Andrew W. Orr, E. J. Orr, W. J. Orr, George Bilbrough and Thomas D. Meddick.

STATE BANK OF CARSON CITY.

The Carson City State Bank was organized on March 15, 1887. E. C. Cummings, J. W. Hallett, F. A. Rockafellow, S. H. Caswell, Joshua Tennant, Irvin McCall, Charles Cross, B. Frank Sweet, C. R. Dickinson, William H. Brace, S. S. Walker, E. E. White, Edwin R. Banton were the organizers and first stockholders of this bank which was organized with a capital stock of \$50,000. The first president and cashier was E. C. Cummings, and he has served as president ever since. Samuel S. Walker was vice-president, and the first directors were J. W. Hallett, E. C. Cummings, F. A. Rockafellow, S. S. Walker, C. R. Dickinson, Joshua Tennant, E. P. Waldron, S. H. Caswell and E. R. Banton. John W. Hallett is the present vice-president; Ira Cummings, cashier; and J. W. Hallett, J. P. Taylor, H. G. Sessions, E. D. Lyons, W. A. Crabb, Isaac Krohn, G. H. Patterson, E. C. Cummings and Ira Cummings the present directors. In April, 1898, the capital stock was reduced to \$25,000, but at a meeting of the shareholders in August, 1912, it was decided to increase it to \$50,000 again and that is the present capital stock. The last statement of this bank shows deposits amounting to \$396,500, with a surplus of \$10,000. The present location of this bank is in a two-story brick building at the corner of Main and Division streets, valued at \$4,000 and the fixtures at \$1,441.

NEFF'S BANK OF MCBRIDE.

Neff's Bank of McBride, Michigan, was established on October 5, 1904, by Frederick Neff, Louis Neff and Sherman Neff, co-partners. Sherman Neff was appointed cashier and Jacob M. Neff, assistant cashier, which relations have continued to the present time.

Resources.

Loans and discounts	\$ 44,754.92
Real estate mortgages and securities	72,167.08
Due from banks, reserve cities	21,768.97

Cash on hand and certificates with other banks--	13,887.24
Furniture -----	419.00

\$152,997.21

Liabilities.

Commercial deposits -----	\$ 46,090.90
Time certificates of deposit -----	83,662.24
Savings deposits (book accounts) -----	8,787.20
Capital and surplus -----	10,859.49
Undivided profits -----	3,597.38

\$152,997.21

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS STATE BANK.

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Carson City, Michigan, was organized in the fall of 1914, by E. B. Stebbins. Mr. Stebbins was formerly a furniture manufacturer located in Lakeview, where he had been a resident prior to the organization of the bank. The articles of association of the bank were accepted by the State Banking Department on December 18, 1914. The first meeting of the stockholders was held in Carson City, January 2, 1915, at which time the following board of directors was chosen: William E. Adams, Charles H. Adams, George Walt, Michael Kipp, C. F. Straight, Charles Burkholder and E. B. Stebbins. The officers of the bank are William E. Adams, president; George Walt, vice-president; E. B. Stebbins, cashier; C. F. Straight, assistant cashier. This bank began business in temporary quarters in the Caswell block, February 19, 1915. Plans for a new bank building were accepted and same was completed and occupied in September following. The building is modern in its arrangements, with rest room for women and assembly room for men, both with lavatories and toilets. Safe deposit vault with private booths and telephone. Building made of cut stone and shale brick, located on the corner of Main and Mercantile streets. Bank has a paid-in capital of \$25,000 and deposits at this time well over \$100,000.

CHAPTER XXXI.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS.

In 1879 William B. Wells founded the first daily newspaper in Montcalm county. It was called the *Daily News*, and the first issue, which was only nine by twelve inches in size, was struck off on a small press, June 19, 1879. In 1881 the name was changed to the *Daily Call*, under which name it is now circulated to the 1,100 subscribers. The present size is four pages, six columns, and the equipment of the plant is complete. Mr. Wells has published the paper continuously since 1879, and besides building an excellent city circulation in Greenville he has added a substantial list of subscribers upon the rural free deliveries immediately surrounding the city.

THE FIRST NEWSPAPER.

The *Montcalm Reflector*, the first newspaper published in Montcalm county, was established at Greenville by Milo Blair. It was a six-column folio, neutral politically, and the first number was issued on September 19, 1854. As a semi-occasional visitant it appeared irregularly for about two years, when it was purchased by J. M. Fuller, who changed it from a neutral to a Republican journal, and from the *Montcalm Reflector* to the *Greenville Independent*, which name it has since borne.

Mr. Fuller after a short time sold the paper to George T. Woodworth, who published it for a brief period, until his death. His widow then conducted the paper ably for some time, but was finally succeeded by James W. Belknap, who gave it added character. In February, 1866, E. F. Grabill, purchased and assumed control of it. Under his management the paper has since kept pace with the rapid development of the county and community in which it is published.

From a seven-column folio it has successfully developed into an eight-column folio and ending in its present form, a six-column quarto. From an office in 1866 where the proprietor was everything from devil up, it has become a steam printing house, its paper printed on a cylinder press, and its jobber also run by steam power. It has a reputation at home and abroad

of which its publisher is proud, and it ranks high among the country newspapers of the state.

A POLITICAL ORGAN.

The first number of the *Greenville Democrat*, D. B. Sherwood, publisher, appeared on June 16, 1871. It was Democratic for a time, but as Montcalm county was strongly Republican, it did not flourish exceedingly well, hence it was changed to an independent sheet. At the commencement of the Greeley presidential campaign the Democrats of Montcalm again felt the need of an organ, and assisted by them, J. Wesley Griffith purchased the paper and forthwith began the publication of a Democratic sheet of the most pronounced type.

On the 1st of January, 1878, the *Democrat* passed into the hands of the Democrat Printing Company, and enjoyed a liberal and steadily increasing patronage. Its reputation as an able political (Democratic) and live local journal was well established. It was printed by steam, in connection with the *Daily Bee*, and had a large and complete job office. In size it was a six-column quarto.

The *Daily Bee*, an independent five-column folio, was first issued on April 18, 1880. It was devoted mainly to local news, and enjoyed a circulation of nearly six hundred copies.

THE GREENVILLE INDEPENDENT.

By B. E. Avery.

Milo Blair came to the then village of Greenville in 1854 and that fall started the *Montcalm Reflector* and the first issue made its appearance on September 19 of that year. Beside pursuing his duties as editor and publisher Blair found time to study law and was admitted to the bar in 1856. Upon his admission to the bar he sold the *Reflector* to Joseph M. Fuller, who changed the name to the *Greenville Independent* and injected a strong sentiment of Republicanism into its columns. Mr. Fuller felt that he was not born to be an editor and sold the paper to George T. Woodworth on April 20, 1858, who published it but a short time before his death which occurred on December 27, 1860. His widow, who afterward became Mrs. N. Slaght, conducted the paper with signal ability but finally on May 30, 1862, sold the paper to James W. Belknap who gave it considerable local prominence and later sold it to the late E. F. Grabill on February 20, 1866, who for more than forty-six years was the proprietor, editor and publisher

of the *Independent*. His eventful life came suddenly to an end on April 4, 1912.

The history of the *Independent* would be only half complete without a word regarding the life and wonderful work of this long-time editor. He was born on June 16, 1837, in Millsboro, Pennsylvania. His life was the life of many a poor boy, but in that boy's breast was a courageous and never-waning determination to gain an education. His choice of college was Oberlin and it was in that school he began his education. The second year in school found him harkening to the call of his country and in 1861 he volunteered in that memorable struggle. When his duties to his country were ended he came to Greenville and purchased the *Independent* where he continued without interruption of residence until the end. His life was a clean open book, he served his community well and left a record as a man and an editor that may well be emulated by all who come afterward.

Carl E. Grabill, ably assisted by his talented wife, Josephine D. Grabill, took up the work and continued it until the plant was purchased by a stock company that took possession on September 14, 1914. The stockholders and incorporators were Mrs. J. D. Grabill, T. B. Winter, N. O. Griswold, E. A. Kemp, C. L. Rarden, D. D. Dilley, R. J. Tower, C. O. Jenison, Charles H. Gibson, C. J. Drummond, E. S. Clark and Bryant E. Avery. At the election of officers, Bryant E. Avery was elected president and general manager and assumed the position of editor. Charles H. Gibson was elected vice-president, and Mrs. J. D. Grabill, secretary and associate editor. The same organization continues at the present time except that Mrs. Grabill retired on September 14, 1915, and was succeeded by Carl E. Grabill as secretary.

NEWSPAPERS AT STANTON.

Stanton's first newspaper, the *Montcalm Herald*, was established by Edwin O. Shaw, and the first number appeared on September 11, 1867. Mr. Shaw continued in control of the paper until November 15, 1868, when Edwin R. Powell purchased it, assuming personal control on Christmas day of that year. The *Herald* was started as a six-column folio, but before it passed from the control of Mr. Shaw he had enlarged it to seven columns. This size was continued until the fall of 1874, when Mr. Powell changed it to a six-column quarto. He again enlarged it to a seven-column quarto in 1878. On the morning of October 12, 1880, by a conflagration which

devastated a large part of the business portion of Stanton village, the *Herald* office, with nearly all of its material, was burned, including the files of the *Herald*, also of the *Ionia Gazette*, Mr. Powell's loss being about three thousand dollars.

The *Stanton Daily Meteor*, E. R. Powell & Son, publishers, was first issued on June 18, 1880. It was a three-column folio, but its publication was discontinued after a period of about three months.

The *Montcalm Journal*, a Republican six-column quarto, was started at Stanton by J. K. Fairchild in September, 1875. Its publication was continued for a period of only about eighteen months.

The *Stanton Weekly Clipper*, an independent Journal, was established by William White in 1879, the first number appearing on September 19, of that year. It began as a four-column folio, but at the expiration of six months P. S. Dodge bought an interest in the paper and it was enlarged to a seven-column folio. Two or three years later Mr. White disposed of his interest to Mr. Dodge, who continued to publish the *Clipper* until 1894, when he sold the paper to N. W. Newhouse and H. D. Tisdale. This co-partnership existed for two years, when Mr. Newhouse became sole owner and the political complexion of the paper became Republican. In 1905 the *Clipper* was enlarged to a six-column quarto.

On March 15, 1913, Mr. Newhouse purchased the good will and subscription list of the *Montcalm Herald* (that paper having lost its plant by fire on February 16, 1913) and the two papers were merged under the name of the *Stanton Clipper-Herald*. Shortly afterward Mr. Newhouse formed a co-partnership with R. A. Carothers, and they are the present publishers.

NEWSPAPERS OF CORAL.

The first newspaper published in Coral made its initial appearance in 1875. It was christened the *Coral Enterprise* and was edited and owned by John I. Taylor. Only a few issues were gotten out and only one copy is known to exist at the present time and that hangs in a frame in the office of the *Coral News*.

The best history of the *Coral News* is found in the paper of that name and was published on January 28, 1915. The occasion for this story was the birthday anniversary of the paper and was written by the editor, Fred U. O'Brien. The article follows:

"Eighteen years ago the middle of last summer ye editor was dismissed from the services of the *Morley Tribune* because the publisher of that paper

was not making enough money to pay our wages. For several months following that your humble servant was 'on the hog' and go where we would and try as hard as one may it was impossible to secure a job. We were not alone in that predicament; there were thousands in the same boat and if misery enjoyed company we had lots of it. It was the panic of '93-'97. As a last desperate attempt to make a living we conceived the idea of starting a newspaper in Coral. A mention of the thought to several met with a hearty response and advertising and subscription contracts sufficient to guarantee the venture were signed up.

"Being busted and having no friends who were in position to advance us the money to launch, it made the wheels in our head go some to raise the necessary cash. A widow at Shepard had inherited a small printing outfit from her husband's estate, which she offered to sell on very liberal terms. To get the money to make the first payment of \$75 was what was sticking us. We went to first one and then another to get them to back our paper for \$100 for ninety days. The subscription and ad contracts we had were mighty poor collateral but was the only thing we had to offer. Having been a fairly respectable boy and young man stood us in good hands in this time of need. The late Hon. L. L. Church had been our Sunday school superintendent and had evidently gotten a favorable impression of us for he backed the note that gave us a boost. After securing the money we borrowed a wagon from the late Thomas Kain, another horse from W. R. Wright and a wagon from the late Robert Owen. Putting the three together we drove across country to Shepard, where we closed the deal with Mrs. Hurst for the printing outfit. We got that plant into Coral Friday night, January 22, 1897, and the next Thursday, January 28, issued the first copy of *The News*.

"Everything and everybody was on the hog in these days. Potatoes were selling for seven to thirteen cents a bushel; corn was ten cents a crate; beans were fifty cents a bushel; good dry beech and maple wood, seventy-five cents and a one dollar a cord; eggs seven cents a dozen and butter ten cents a pound. We took everything and anything on subscription and managed to get hold of enough money to pay our bills and in seventy-five days paid the note Mr. Church had so kindly endorsed.

"We will have to relate the interest that good gentleman took in our progress. He lived on the farm where his son Frank now resides and made Coral his marketing place. Whenever he came to town he would stop in to see how we were getting along. We always told him it was going fine but did not tell him that every extra dollar we got hold of went to the Howard

City bank to reduce that note. It was one beautiful day the first part of April we met Mr. Church in front of where Chapple & Skeoch's office is now located that he took us by the hand and inquired as to how we were getting along. Proud as a boy with a pair of new boots we took the note he had indorsed out of our pocket and showed it to him. We will never forget his congratulations. He said: 'Allow me to congratulate you, Fred. This is the first note I have indorsed the past ten years I haven't had to renew from one to ten times, and some I have had to pay.'

"We took so much wood on subscription one would of thought we were running a wood-yard instead of a newspaper. Having lots of room in the second story of the house we occupied we filled it with corn on subscription at ten cents a crate. Frank Johnson brought in two bushels of beans to pay for a year's subscription. William A. Blanding brought in a sack of flour and flour looked so good to your humble servant then that we find we made an item of it in the first issue. In thirteen months we handed Mrs. Hurst the balance due on the outfit.

"The paper has passed through all the trials and tribulations of the average country journal and has had its part in many questions of public interest. One question we are most proud to have entered the *News* has been that of temperance. The paper helped blaze the trail for the success of the temperance cause in this county. Whether it got credit for that or not is of matter of little concern to us. It has helped nominate and elect candidates for public favor and assisted in defeating others. The entrance of the *News* in the fight for the temperance cause brought the combined efforts of the liquor traffic and its sympathizers to put it out of business. A boycott was declared but what has happened to the boycotters is a matter of history with which our readers are well acquainted. Several in other lines of business then selling wet goods discontinued their ads, failed in business to the 'jag' cure and went other ways that too close an association with the cup that cheers (?) takes men.

"We have damned Grover Cleveland's big panic high and low many times and it never dawned on us until very recently that probably it was the best thing that ever came along for we might still be working as a journeyman printer had conditions not developed as they did. The little we made during the intervening years we will have to credit to this paper. The continuing of the *News* is nowhere near as essential to our well being now as it was at that time. Those who have damned it up hill and down, did everything they could to put us in the bone-yard, have our profound sympathy. They could have employed themselves better with a greater degree of suc-

cess. To the friends who have ever stood loyally by the paper we owe a debt of gratitude."

HOWARD CITY PUBLICATION.

The *Howard City Record* was first established by Wayne E. Morris, the first copy coming from the press on August 17, 1872. It was first published as a four-page folio. The paper has never changed name and has had an important part in the development of its field.

From time to time improvements have been added which now bring it into the class of the best weekly newspapers in the state. It is now an eight-page, seven-column quarto, printed all at home. The *Record* was the second paper in Montcalm county to add power to its equipment and now has one of the finest plants to be found in a town of the same size. Its circulation has grown to 1,400 copies circulated weekly and it maintains one of the cleanest subscription lists extant.

After about two years, the paper passed into the hands of V. W. Bruce, a trenchant writer, and an abolitionist of the first water. In about 1877 James H. Hallack became its editor and three years later sold it to Ed E. Smith, who in turn sold it to Berry J. Lowrey in 1885. Mr. Lowrey was the sole owner and proprietor until January 1, 1903, and under his able management the paper made great strides forward. On this date he sold a half interest to James B. Haskins, a Howard City young man, who had been associated with Mr. Lowrey for some three years. The firm was conducted under the name of Lowrey & Haskins for three years and three months, Mr. Haskins assuming entire control on April 1, 1906. Since that time the paper has been strengthened and improved until it has reached an enviable position among the papers of the county and state.

The *Record* is Republican in politics and has always subscribed itself to the best interests of that party. On several occasions it has been active in seeking to purify local and county conditions and has been mainly successful. It never enjoyed more influence than at the present time and is considered by the press at large to be a model country weekly. The *Record* has lent itself strongly in the past few years to the cause of community development and has been most interested in serving its own immediate territory in every way possible, promoting every legitimate enterprise and making a feature of circulating modern and approved "better farming" doctrine.

NEWSPAPERS OF EDMORE.

The first newspaper printed in Edmore was started by a Mr. Harrison. This began in 1878—about the time the town was started—and existed for about two years, when it finally ceased for lack of support. This was a six- or seven-column folio and was published weekly.

The *Edmore Journal* was brought forth in the village of Edmore on September 1, 1879, by Dan Youngs. Mr. Youngs was editor and proprietor of the paper, which at that time was a five-column quarto, until February, 1883, when it passed into the hands of William White. Mr. White, being a man of newspaper experience, soon placed the *Journal* on a firm basis and it began to be a part of the village of Edmore. It was run under this editorship for sixteen years, or until 1899, when it was purchased by A. N. Demory, who was ex-county school commissioner. Mr. Demory being a man inexperienced in the newspaper field, soon saw that he was not adapted for this line of work and sold it to J. R. Warren, after serving as its editor for only eight months. Mr. Warren published the *Journal* from that time until the final copy was issued, March 28, 1908. At that time it was a six-column quarto. Mr. Warren gave as his reason for closing out the business the passing of the law which does not permit country newspapers to send paper at pound rate to subscribers who are more than one year in arrears. Thus closed a very important chapter in the newspapers of Montcalm county.

The *Edmore Times*, which is the only active paper in Edmore at the present time, began its career on April 1, 1908. This paper was launched by William White, who has continued editor since its establishment. It formerly was published on Saturday as an eight-column folio but later was changed to a six-column quarto, published on Friday. Mr. White has been one of the chief boosters of Edmore, and through the columns of the *Times*, the interests of Edmore are always heralded. The *Times* has an actual circulation of 800 copies, and besides a fully-equipped electric newspaper plant also has an up-to-date job printing department, which is one of the largest in the county.

LAKEVIEW ENTERPRISE.

The first newspaper published in Lakeview, called the *Lakeview Citizen*, was established by Rev. C. J. Massey, January 21, 1876. Its publica-
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tion was continued for two years, when it was given up. A year later Thomas Rogers established the present paper, the *Lakeview Enterprise*, and the first issue was distributed on July 2, 1879. It has changed hands many times. Mr. Rogers was the editor until 1888, when he sold it to Clarence C. Gilleo, but he remained in charge only until 1896, when he sold it to L. D. Haviland. Then a co-partnership was formed, consisting of F. E. Moore and Leroy Stebbins, in 1902. Stebbins retired from the firm of Stebbins & Moore about three years later. Moore published the paper until September 1, 1910, when it was purchased by the present publisher, Harry C. Holmes. Mr. Holmes gets out a very interesting paper, with a circulation of 700 copies a week. It has grown to be a six-column, eight-page paper. At first it was only a five-column, four-page. The plant is furnished complete, having both publishing and job equipment, and takes a leading part in the business and development of the community.

THE CRYSTAL MAIL.

The first issue of the *Crystal Mail* was published on January 18, 1900. It was founded by W. L. LaDu and F. T. Massey, who had charge of it for three weeks, when it went into the hands of George J. LaDu and W. L. LaDu. They published the paper about nine months, when the present owner and publisher, C. W. LaDu, purchased the business and has since conducted the same. The circulation is good, Mr. LaDu printing and sending out 650 to 675 copies a week. The paper was at first a six-column folio, but has since grown to be a six-column quarto. The equipment of the plant is excellent, having installed up-to-date machinery and all possible conveniences. Mr. LaDu owns the building, which was erected expressly for the business. This paper takes a leading part in business and political history of its community, and is a power for good. Its editor is ever alive to the best interests of the people, and always ready and willing to champion their cause.

MCBRIDE REVIEW.

The *McBride Review* was founded by W. C. Shannon, and the first issue was sent out on December 13, 1893. The first paper was only nine by sixteen inches, but now it is a six-column quarto. Mr. W. C. Shannon is still the editor and gets out a very interesting paper, which has a circulation of 480 copies per week—a goodly number for a small town. The plant

is fully equipped for doing newspaper and job work. Mr. Shannon is a hustler and has made his paper a power for good in his community.

CARSON CITY GAZETTE.

Along back in the seventies there was a man by the name of Arms who started a paper in Carson City. Dick Arms, who came up there from Portland, having worked on the *Portland Observer*, and wanted to branch out in life for himself, started the paper. I do not know what he called it, but I can remember seeing an old heading around the shop with the word "Commercial" on it. Well, things were too warm for Dick, so he sold to Julian Newman, another Portland boy, and also a pupil of the *Observer* office. Newman lasted quite a while. He had a thousand dollars and it had to be spent. Newman changed the name of the paper and did some other stunts to try to make it live. But he got swamped and the property got into the hands of George Stone, then a lawyer of that town. Stone had no use for a newspaper plant, so he looked for a purchaser. This time it was a man by the name of C. F. Hager, another Portland printer, and also a graduate of the *Observer*. It was in 1883 that Hager went to Carson City and started to make his fortune. He changed the name of the paper to the *Bee*, and started right out with a red hot political sheet. He took the Republican side, and got every Democrat in the town against him right on the start.

That was the condition as I found it when I landed in Carson City via stage from Pewamo on the 1st of November, 1884. I worked for Hager for nearly two years, at the end of which time I bought him out. The office was then located in the second story of the Cummings building, and the equipment was not very great. In order to keep up with my predecessors and also because I did not like to be called the "Buzzard," I, too, changed the name of the paper. It took me a week to settle that name, and that was in 1886, and I am glad to see it a sticker. But I must not forget to say in this bit of history that I, too, was from Portland and also a type slinger in the *Observer* office. Four of us went the same road to a certain extent. July 1, 1890, I sold the property to A. L. Bemis, who was then teaching school in Nashville, Michigan.

The improvement in the *Gazette* has, I think, kept up with the times and the town. When I bought it the sheet was printed on a little army press, one page at a time. It was a seven-column folio, two pages printed at home. I enlarged it to a five-column quarto, four pages printed at home.

Now you have a six-column quarto, and it is nicely printed and a very welcome caller. It is the wish of the writer to see the *Gazette* live long and prosper, as we cannot help but have a soft spot in our heart for the enterprise that we helped put upon the map of commercial industry and guided it through its first years of existence.

The above is written by former Editor C. G. Bailey, who is now employed on the *Belding Banner*, and who sold the *Gazette* to A. L. Bemis, who died on August 5, 1912.

H. E. Cowdin purchased the *Carson City Gazette* on July 1, 1911. Mr. Cowdin's father, C. H. Cowdin, established the *Rockford (Michigan) Register* in 1871, which paper his brother, C. R. Cowdin, took charge of in 1883, owing to the father's ill health. He left it in 1889 to establish the *Belding (Michigan) Banner*. H. E. Cowdin took the management of the *Register* and conducted it until September, 1910. Mr. Cowdin, when he began editing the *Register*, was but eighteen years old. This paper was conducted by the Cowdin family for nearly forty years.

The *Gazette* is a good newspaper property and is better equipped than an ordinary office in towns the size of Carson City and even larger. It has an average subscription list which has been increased over 200 in the past two years and a half and is still growing.

Mr. Cowdin issues special holiday numbers each year and frequently is obliged to use twelve pages for his paper. The paper has a fine advertising patronage from the home merchants, which shows their appreciation of its quality. It is a fine example of a successful weekly paper, conducted with care and foresight and made valuable by its high quality, which meets the approval of all its readers. The *Gazette* has practically always used the Western Newspaper Union Service.

CHAPTER XXXII.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

The medical profession in Montcalm county has invariably been characterized by that high regard for the demands of a great profession, one which more closely, perhaps, than any other calling touches the lives of a people. The physician comes into the home at a time when the human heart is most susceptible to the sympathies and the tenderness of loving trust and confidence. The art of healing comprises not only the technical knowledge and skill of the scientist, but the human and intimate ministrations that are above and beyond the reach of science.

The physicians of Montcalm county, from the days when the resources of the county were undeveloped, roads wanting and population sparse, have labored quite unselfishly for the most part to fulfill their high mission as comforters in the hours of distress. As the county has grown in wealth and population, physicians have settled here in greater numbers. Their skill today far surpasses that of those good men who ministered to an earlier generation, but, generally speaking, the devotion of the profession has not changed. The same high sense of honesty and the same rigid standard of professional ethics prevail. Perhaps the professional standard is even higher today than ever before. Whether it is or not, Montcalm county physicians have always worked together in harmony. Professional jealousies are little known. For a number of years they have gathered together several times each year as members of the Montcalm Medical Society. Before this society was organized there was the Union Medical Society of Northern Michigan, with which many of the Montcalm county physicians were long affiliated. Certain members of this society living outside Montcalm county were made members of the Montcalm society, when the latter was organized.

The Montcalm County Medical Society was organized on September 17, 1902, at a meeting of the physicians of the county held at Stanton, when the following physicians were enrolled as charter members: Doctors W. H. Belknap, S. M. Gleason, A. W. Nichols, H. L. Brower, C. O. Jenison, D. K. Black, C. S. Ludlurn, William H. Lester and John Avery, Greenville; I. S.

Crutser and James Purdon, Edmore; William P. Gamber and N. E. Bachman, Stanton; G. S. Townsend, Six Lakes; A. P. Culbertson, Vickeryville; F. R. Blanchard and J. T. Joslin, Lakeview; A. E. Savage, Gowen; R. H. Blaisdell, Sheridan, and C. C. Sayles, Langston.

At the first meeting of the society Dr. John Avery, of Greenville, and Dr. H. L. Bower, of Greenville, were elected president and secretary, respectively. Doctor Bower also acted as treasurer. Dr. N. E. Bachman was named first vice-president; Dr. F. R. Blanchard, second vice-president; Dr. George O. Stanton, of Belding, third vice-president, and Dr. L. S. Crotser, fourth vice-president. Doctor Bower continued to serve as secretary-treasurer of the society from year to year until 1915, when he was chosen president. Doctor Avery was re-elected president of the society in 1903, and continued to act as president until the annual meeting of the society in 1909, when he was chosen president emeritus of the society. At this time Dr. F. R. Blanchard was elected president; Dr. J. O. Nelson, first vice-president; Dr. E. M. Highfield, second vice-president; Dr. W. H. Belknap, third vice-president, and Dr. Walter A. Lee, fourth vice-president. In 1910 Dr. J. O. Nelson succeeded Doctor Blanchard as president, and the first, second, third and fourth vice-presidents were Drs. E. M. Highfield, W. H. Belknap, W. A. Lee and L. E. Kelsey. In 1911 Dr. Walter A. Lee was elected president, and Drs. L. E. Kelsey, D. K. Black, A. W. Martin and M. E. Danforth, first, second, third and fourth vice-presidents. In 1912 Dr. L. E. Kelsey was elected president, and Drs. D. K. Black, M. E. Danforth, A. B. Penton and A. J. Bower, vice-presidents. In 1913 Dr. D. K. Black, of Greenville, was elected president; Dr. James Purdon, of Edmore, vice-president, and Dr. Horace L. Bower, secretary; the offices of second, third and fourth vice-presidents having been abolished. The present officers of the society, elected at the annual meeting held on October 8, 1914, at the Greenville city hall, are Dr. Horace L. Bower, president; Dr. M. E. Danforth, vice-president, and Dr. F. J. Fralick, secretary.

The present members of the Montcalm County Medical Society are as follow: Drs. L. E. Bracey and W. A. Lee, Sheridan; E. P. Bruce, Trufant; L. E. Kelsey and H. N. Flexner, Lakeview; James Purdon, Edmore; J. O. Nelson and N. W. Miller, Howard City; A. B. Penton, Smyrna; R. B. Smith, Crystal; E. W. Bolio, Coral; A. E. Savage, A. S. Barr, C. O. Jenison, W. H. Lester, F. A. Johnson, D. K. Black, F. J. Fralick, H. L. Bower and A. J. Bower, Greenville; M. E. Danforth, Stanton; John R. Hansen, McBride, and G. S. Townsend, Six Lakes. Dr. A. W. Woodburn, of Entrican, until recently a member of the society, has removed to Hastings.

EARLY PRACTITIONERS.

The earliest practitioner in the hamlet of Greenville was Dr. Thomas Green, brother of the founder of the city, who came from Chautauqua county, New York, in 1845, and began his professional labors. His residence, however, was brief. He speedily succumbed to the ravages of the ague, and returned to the East. Later years found him again a resident of Michigan, though not among the scenes of his early pioneer experiences.

Dr. J. B. Chamberlain came from Macomb county in 1850, and established himself as the second practitioner, and for a brief time was the only one in the primitive settlement. He remained until his death, in 1860.

Dr. Israel B. Richardson, a former resident of Ionia county, arrived in 1852, and remained several years in the practice of his profession. He subsequently moved to Saginaw, and there engaged in professional labor.

Dr. W. E. Darwin closed his career as a practicing physician in Greenville in 1852, having been for two years a resident of the place.

Dr. H. E. Skinner arrived in 1851, and soon gained a lucrative practice, which was continued until his death, in 1853.

Dr. Comfort Slawson, a former resident of New York state, chose Greenville as a place of settlement in 1853. He remained many years, during which a large and successful practice was enjoyed. He later moved to Maple Valley, and died there.

Dr. W. H. Ellsworth early pursued his studies at Woodstock, Vermont, and completed the course in Montreal, Canada. At the solicitation of friends he made Greenville his home in 1855. His practice, which was large and successful, extended over a period of eight years, when failing health compelled a temporary residence in a more genial climate. His death occurred in the year 1864.

Dr. J. B. Drummond was a graduate of the Albany, New York, Medical College, and on the completion of his studies moved to Oakland county, Michigan, where he engaged in practice. At the expiration of one year he came to Greenville, where he pursued his profession until failing health obliged him to relinquish it. His death occurred in 1876.

Dr. E. Rogers came from Ohio to the city in 1864. He at once began the practice of medicine, which was continued until his death, in 1872.

Dr. H. L. Bower studied his profession and was graduated at the Albany Medical College in 1864, becoming a resident of Greenville in 1865. He continued in practice until his removal from the city, in 1869. He

returned in 1879, and is now actively engaged in professional work with his son, Dr. A. J. Bower. An extended sketch of Dr. H. L. Bower appears in the biographical section of this volume.

Dr. C. F. Morgan, having graduated at the Yale Medical College, New Haven, in 1866, moved soon after to Mount Morris, New York, where he followed his profession until his removal to Greenville, in 1868. For many years he was the surgeon for the old Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroad.

Dr. James Mulhern was a graduate of the Detroit Medical College, and after the completion of his studies moved to Lakeview. He came to Greenville in 1871. For a time he was in partnership with Dr. C. F. Morgan.

Dr. O. E. Herrick began his studies with Doctor Avery in Greenville, and completed them at the Albany Medical College in 1870. He established himself in the city and continued in practice until his removal to Grand Rapids, in 1879.

Dr. Alva W. Nichols, a native of Michigan, made his advent in 1870, and began his studies with Doctors Morgan and Mulhern. He graduated at the Bellevue Medical College in 1874 and later took a special course at the New York eye and ear infirmary. He served as pension examiner for a time, as trustee of the Kalamazoo insane asylum, and in 1894 was the Populist candidate for governor, polling six hundred and sixty-two votes in Montcalm county and thirty thousand and twelve in the state of Michigan. Doctor Nichols died about 1910.

DR. JOHN AVERY.

Dr. John Avery was born in Watertown, New York, February 29, 1824, and came to Michigan in 1836. His father served in the War of 1812. Doctor Avery attended the district school in Chautauqua county, New York, and Clinton county, Michigan. He also studied a part of two years at the academy at Grass Lake, which was conducted by the Rev. Hiram Elmer. In 1847 he began the study of medicine with Doctor Whaley, of Grass Lake, and in 1848 went to Duplain, continuing his studies for several months with Doctor Watson. He then attended a medical college in Cleveland, Ohio, graduating from there in 1849, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He then moved to Owasso, Michigan, and entered into partnership with Dr. J. B. Barnes. In the spring of 1854 he moved to Ionia, where he practiced with Dr. D. W. Bliss. Then he moved to Otisco,

and continued to practice until 1862, when he was appointed assistant surgeon to the Twenty-first Michigan Infantry, and in the following year was promoted to the rank of surgeon. He remained in the army until the close of the war. During the last year of the war he acted as brigade surgeon. Shortly after the war he moved to Greenville and made that his permanent home. In 1872 he erected a handsome brick store, renting the building for a drug store, and in 1875 he purchased the stock and engaged in the business himself. He was a member of the common council of Greenville, drawing its first charter. He was a member of the Legislature, and was elected to congress in 1892 and re-elected in 1894. He was pension examiner for twenty-two years and supervisor for ten years. He was president of the Northern Medical Association and belonged to the Masonic fraternity. He was a member of the Episcopal church and senior warden of the church at Greenville. In May, 1852, he married Jane H. Ewell, daughter of Samuel Ewell, of Remco, Michigan, who was born on August 20, 1823. They had two sons and two daughters. The eldest son, Frank P., graduated at West Point, June, 1878, and served as lieutenant in the regular army. Doctor Avery died on January 21, 1913. Mrs. Avery died on December 21, 1908.

Dr. L. B. Lester studied and graduated at Geneva, New York, having come from the latter state to Greenville in 1868, where he established himself in the practice of his profession. He died in 1913. His son, Dr. L. B. Lester, is a practicing physician at Greenville.

Dr. E. Fish, the first practitioner of the homeopathic school at Greenville, was a native of Wayne county, New York, and moved to Ohio in 1853. He early became a pupil of Dr. David Shepard, of Geauga county, Ohio, and was later a student in the medical department of Willoughby University. He graduated from the Starling Medical College at Columbus, Ohio, in 1848. He spent the winter of 1865-66 in attendance upon the Bellevue and Charity hospitals, New York, and began the practice of medicine in Greenville in 1869, having previously been a student of the Homeopathic Medical College. Doctor Fish practiced medicine at Greenville for a number of years, and for a few years before his death, which occurred three or four years ago, he was retired.

Dr. T. M. Benedict was a graduate of the Detroit Homeopathic College, where he finished his course of study in 1873. He moved from Oakland county to Ionia county in 1865, and to Greenville in 1873. Later he moved to Ionia county and died there.

Dr. L. A. Chaffee began the practice of medicine in Greenville in 1871,

and with the exception of brief intervals of absence, was always a resident of Greenville. He belonged to the eclectic school of medicine. He practiced medicine at Greenville until his death, about 1912.

DR. CHARLES M. MARTIN.

Dr. Charles M. Martin was born at Portage, Wyoming county, New York, on July 4, 1839. When he was five years of age the family moved to Akron, Ohio, where Charles remained until he was sixteen years of age, receiving such educational advantages as were offered by the common schools and the Akron Academy. In 1855 he came to Ionia county with his father's family, and while he lived there he spent one year at the Agricultural College at Lansing. In 1861 he began the study of medicine with Doctor Dolley, then attended the medical college at Ann Arbor, and afterward took a second course at the Bellevue Medical College at New York, where he was graduated. Doctor Martin began the practice of medicine at Greenville in the spring of 1864 and soon established a good practice. In 1867 he formed a partnership with Doctor Avery, which continued until 1871, when he moved to Longmont, Colorado, on account of his failing health. Here he was elected president of the Chicago Colorado colony, and was also editor of the *Longmont Press*. After remaining one year, Doctor Martin had so far recovered his health that he returned to Greenville and resumed the practice of his profession. He was a member of the Union Medical Society of Northern Michigan, and also of the State Medical Society. Politically, Doctor Martin is a Republican. He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, and has always remained an active member of that party. Doctor Martin was married, March 28, 1865, to Sarah E. Ecker, of Plesis, Jefferson county, New York, by whom he had three children. Some twenty years ago Doctor Martin removed to the state of Washington, where he now resides. When Doctor Martin left the state, he sold his business to Dr. D. K. Black.

Dr. Charles Stuart Sheldon, long a practicing physician at Greenville, was a native of Oneida county, New York, where he was born on January 14, 1842. He graduated from the Brockport Collegiate Institute in 1858, and a little later entered Phillips' Academy at Andover, Massachusetts, where he remained until the fall of 1859, when he entered Yale. There he was graduated in 1863, ranking forty-second in a class of more than two hundred. In 1865 he began the study of medicine at Buffalo, New York, in the medical department of Buffalo University. He graduated in 1867,

with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and afterwards attended lectures at the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he was also graduated in 1868. After practicing three years at Winona, Minnesota, Doctor Sheldon removed to Greenville, in January, 1872, where he continued to practice for many years. He was married on October 30, 1868, to Emma L. Hodge, of Buffalo, by whom several children were born. He was a Republican, and a member of the Congregational church. Many years ago Doctor Sheldon removed to Madison, Wisconsin.

Dr. Seymour A. Woodworth was born in Michigan in 1869. In later years he was graduated from Hahneman Medical College, of Chicago. He also attended the University of Michigan. He was an examining physician of the Knights of Maccabees and Woodmen lodges at Greenville for some time.

Dr. Duncan K. Black was born in Canada in 1861 and attended the Michigan College of Medicine at Detroit, where he was graduated in 1886. In 1893 he took a post-graduate course at the New York Post Graduate School. He has been a resident of Greenville since 1890.

Dr. J. B. Daniels was one of the two men who laid out the village of Six Lakes. Doctor Daniels became a prominent resident of the village and practiced there for many years.

DR. ROSWELL R. EDWARDS.

Dr. Roswell R. Edwards was born in 1824 in Chenango county, New York, where he spent his early years, later moving to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, where for a time he taught school. He was educated for the medical profession in Cleveland, Ohio, and was the first physician to locate in Bushnell township and among the first in Montcalm county. He was married in Cleveland to Elizabeth Gleason, daughter of Jeremiah D. Gleason and sister of Artemus Gleason, for many years a resident of Bushnell township. About two years after her marriage the first wife died, leaving one son, Austin M., now of Buffalo, New York. In the spring of 1852 Doctor Edwards, in company with his brother-in-law, came to Bushnell, settling on part of sections 18 and 19. He soon returned temporarily to Cleveland, where, in July, 1853, he was married to Adelia B. Hall, daughter of Simeon and Lucinda Daly Hall, and who returned with him to the wilderness home in Michigan. Seven children were born to this union, Clarence C., Ada Eugenia, Francis L., F. Burnside, Paul V., E. Frances and Fred L. For about ten years ensuing he practiced his profession, heeding every call for

help, white man and red man alike, Chief John Wabasis, of the Chippewa Indians, being counted among his patients; continually enduring the hardships and privations of a new and sparsely inhabited country. He then returned to Cleveland, taking his family, where he renewed his professional labors and remained until the close of 1864, when he returned to Bushnell, again to care for the health of his old friends and neighbors, and was welcomed home by many glad hands. For a number of years prior to his death, in addition to his home office and practice, he and Dr. A. L. Corey became associated and maintained an office at Stanton. He was physician for the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad Company, during the construction of the Stanton branch and for some years after. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity for many years and took an active part in educational matters, serving as school inspector and member of the district board. He served continuously as health officer until June 3, 1890, when death ended his useful career. He was justly popular in his profession, exceptionally gifted in some of its branches, being not only an able physician but also possessed of a genial manner and honesty of purpose which won friends in all walks of life. In the early days Doctor Edwards encountered many impediments that did not fall to the lot of later practitioners; yet by his innate ability and natural insight into the ailments of his patients, he bridged over many difficulties and overcame many obstacles. Frequently in critical cases, there being an utter lack of nurses and conveniences for nursing, he would remain a greater portion of the time, when not urgently needed elsewhere, with his stricken friends, giving them the very best care possible. He handled medicines with skill and combated successfully malaria, snake bites, gunshot and ax wounds, fever and ague—"lung fever"—and other diseases of the early days. With long walks or runs through the woods (not rides in his earlier practice) with a small fee for his services, many times none at all, and most frequently a long-belated pay day, he alleviated the sufferings of the early settlers with an almost heroic devotion. Much of the time he seemed almost indifferent to the financial end of his profession and though he secured a comfortable amount of property, he died in moderate circumstances. Of the second family of children, the two daughters reside in Palo, Ionia county, and the sons, Paul and Fred, have their homes in Bushnell township, the others having passed away.

Doctor Richardson was the first practicing physician to locate in Eureka township, having been engaged in the active practice of his profession in Eureka township as early as 1851.

Dr. Joshua Tennant, one of the early physicians of Bloomer township,

was born in Lanark county, Ontario, Canada, August 25, 1838, his parents, John and Jane Tennant, having been born in County Kilkenny, Ireland, and having emigrated to Canada in 1812. When he had grown to young manhood, Joshua Tennant entered the office of Dr. William Sloan, of Blyth, Ontario, Canada, and remained there two years, after which he attended the medical school of the University of Michigan, graduating in 1872. After practicing at Dewitt, Clinton county, Michigan, for eight months, Doctor Tennant came to Carson City in the fall of 1872 and resumed his practice. On October 28, 1873, he was married to Jane Taylor, who was born at Northeast Hop, Canada, on April 10, 1851, and who was the daughter of the Rev. J. B. and Christina (Bain) Taylor. Two children, John S., born on June 27, 1877, and William O., born on June 12, 1880, blessed this union. Doctor Tennant was a Republican and a member of the Congregational church.

Dr. J. T. Joslyn was the first physician to locate in Trufant. After remaining for about one year, he returned to Guernsey and was succeeded in the practice by Doctor Hammond.

Dr. H. F. Kilborn was one of the first, if not the very first, physicians to locate in Pierson. He came to Pierson in 1869, but remained only a short time, when he removed to New York state. Doctors Everett, H. S. Holden and Col. D. Johnson followed Doctor Kilborn at Pierson.

FIRST PHYSICIAN IN CATO.

The second settler in Cato township and the first physician in the township was Dr. Daniel King. He was a young man when he arrived in Cato township with his wife and settled on the east half of the northeast quarter of section 23. He was well educated and already had made considerable progress in the study of medicine and may, from the services which he rendered during his short stay in Cato township, be considered its first physician. His daughter, born in the spring of 1855, was the first child born in the township. He exchanged farms with E. B. Gallea and returned to Ohio, where he continued to follow his profession.

Dr. Sylvester Derby, who came to Sidney township from Fairplain township, where he was the first physician, settled on section 10, near the southeast shores of the lake which now bears his name. He built a cabin and remained a number of years. He was one of those characters sometimes met with on the frontier—a genius in his way. Besides being a good physician for those days, he was a gunsmith, could repair a watch and

clock, and was, in fact, a jack-of-all-trades. He subsequently went north, where, it is said, after having moved for the fortieth time, he settled down and engaged in running a hotel.

Dr. John Bradish was also one of the first physicians of Sidney township, and although his methods yielded readily to the popular superstitions of the day, he was considered, on the whole, as having been successful in his profession. Later he moved to the West and died there.

Dr. Chauncey E. Shepard, who resided in Fairplain, was one of the early practicing physicians in Sidney township. He usually made his rounds on foot and, besides carrying a gun, was accompanied by a dog. An instance is related in which he is said to have killed a large bear near the cabin of a settler in the south part of Sidney township. Finding the family absent, and having no means to convey it to his home, he dragged it to a wagon which stood near the rude barn. Into this he finally succeeded in placing it, where it lay as if ready to spring on the first to pass by. The next morning a lad was so badly frightened that he required the doctor's attention for several days. Doctor Shepard later practiced his profession in Evergreen township.

Doctor Jackson was the first physician to come to Home township. He settled in the south part of the township, on section 26, where he remained for several years, and then moved to the West. But he subsequently returned to Home township and died here. The next physician, Doctor White, like his predecessor, after entering a piece of land, left the county and moved to the West.

One of the early physicians of Stanton, who is still engaged in the practice is Dr. N. E. Bachman. He was born in New York state in 1845, the son of Jacob S. and Mary (Penoyer) Bachman, and was educated for medicine at the Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Medical College, from which he was graduated in March, 1877. After his graduation, he was induced by Dr. D. A. McLain to locate in Stanton, and for the next five years practiced in partnership with Doctor McLain. Since that time he has practiced alone. Doctor Bachman was mayor of Stanton three terms; health officer for a number of years, a member of the board of supervisors and pension examiner for a number of years. He is a member of the Montcalm County Medical Association and the State Medical Association. In March, 1878, Doctor Bachman was married to Mercy A. Burgess, who died on November 3, 1913. They had three children, one of whom is deceased. Two are living, Royal O. and Mrs. Lena B. Willett.

Dr. Joseph Wilkinson was one of the very earliest physicians in Stan-

ton. He came to Stanton in 1866 from what is now the town of Nashville, in Barry county, Michigan, and after practicing here for a number of years removed to Farewell, in Claire county, where he died. During the Civil War, he was an assistant army surgeon.

Dr. Daniel Shook was the first resident physician of Pierson township. He was born in Dutchess county, New York, and after practicing there and in Canada for a time settled in the north part of Pierson township in 1862. In 1877 he moved to Coral, where he continued the practice for a time, when he engaged in mercantile business, at which he continued until his death, ten years ago. His son, Abram N. Shook, continues to conduct the business his father established.

Dr. George Z. Vallean, of Carson City, who died on September 17, 1907, at the age of sixty-four, was one of the pioneer physicians of Bloomer township. After graduating from Kingston University, Ontario, he came to Carson City in 1867 and practiced there until 1878, when he went to Groton, South Dakota, where he remained until 1905, when he returned to Carson City. He did not practice after his return.

Dr. James A. Stringham, another pioneer physician of Carson City, died on July 21, 1906, at the age of fifty-nine.

Dr. Frederick Taylor, of Carson City, who practiced medicine for a time at Stanton, died at Carson City on April 25, 1912, at the age of fifty-one.

Dr. Jay R. Lovett, of Carson City, who was long a familiar figure at Carson City and in Bloomer township, died on December 17, 1904, at the age of fifty-two.

DR. H. B. RANNEY.

Dr. H. B. Ranney, of Stanton and Edmore, was born near Batavia, New York, June 7, 1833, and accompanied his father to Grand Rapids in 1847 and to Albion in 1851. He entered the army in 1863 as second lieutenant in the Fifteenth New York Cavalry, in a company which he had assisted in recruiting. At the end of the war and after studying medicine for several years, he worked in his brothers' drug store, and in 1869 commenced practice with Dr. A. J. Wiggins, of St. Johns. After traveling as "specialist," Doctor Ranney settled at Stanton and became a prominent citizen of the village. For a time he was assistant surgeon to the old Detroit, Lansing & Lake Michigan Railroad. After practicing at Stanton for a number of years he removed to Edmore and died there. He was married in 1856 to Mrs. H. M. Wilsey, who bore him two sons. Doctor Ranney,

besides being a physician, also practiced dentistry. He was a Mason, Knight of Pythias and member of the Congregational church.

Doctor Culver practiced medicine at Stanton for a time during the early seventies. He removed from the county, however, and never returned.

Dr. R. L. Bentley, one of the physicians of Stanton, began the practice of medicine in 1893, after graduating from the homeopathic department of the University of Michigan in 1893. Previously he practiced a short time in Ionia with Dr. A. B. Grant. Doctor Bentley is a member of the State Homeopathic Medical Association. He was pension examiner for many years at Stanton and has served many years as health officer.

REGISTRATION.

Beginning in 1881 all physicians practicing in the county were required to register in the office of the county clerk, and the following is a complete list of the registrations from 1881 to 1900. The name of the physician, the school where his medical education was received, the year of his graduation, the particular school of medicine to which he belonged, the place where the physician was then practicing and the date of registration are given in most cases. The list of registrations is as follows:

George Hart, Worthington Eclectic College, Crystal, July 10, 1883.

Varnum H. Worden, Montcalm, July 28, 1883.

William Gamber, Cleveland Medical College, March 4, 1881, McBride, regular, August 7, 1883.

Jediah B. Sullivan, regular, August 18, 1883.

Charles M. Martin, Bellevue Hospital Medical College, 1874, regular, August 18, 1883.

Allen L. Corey, University of Michigan, 1868, allopathic, Stanton, August 21, 1883.

Donald A. McLean, University of Michigan, 1867, regular, Stanton, August 22, 1883.

Reuben A. Fuller, homeopathic, Sheridan, August 25, 1883.

M. Clayton Green, University of Michigan, 1883, regular, Stanton, August 25, 1883.

Norman E. Bachman, Medical College of Ft. Wayne, 1877, regular, Stanton, August 25, 1883.

John Phipps, eclectic, August 27, 1883.

Ira S. King, American Medical College, Cincinnati, 1854, eclectic, Coral, August 28, 1883.

John W. Kirtland, Hahnemann Medical College 1877-78, homeopathic, Lakeview, August 29, 1883.

Louis A. Roller, Rush Medical College, 1881, regular, Edmore, August 28, 1883.

Charles S. Sheldon, College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1868, Buffalo Medical College, 1867, regular, Greenville, August 28, 1883.

Henry F. Brown, Western Homeopathic College, 1858, eclectic, Bushnell, August 30, 1883.

James D. Baker, homeopathic, University of Michigan, 1878, Stanton, August 30, 1883.

James J. Wier, eclectic, Edmore, August 31, 1883.

James C. Brooks, eclectic, Lakeview, August 31, 1883.

Cyrenius Sayles, regular, Langston, September 3, 1883.

Charles W. King, Atlanta Medical College, 1861, regular, Langston, September 4, 1883.

John Lamoreux, Eclectic Medical College, 1876, eclectic, Lakeview, September 3, 1883.

Charles O. Adams, Cleveland College of Medicine, 1854, regular, Lakeview, September 5, 1883.

E. W. Hubbard, regular, Six Lakes, September 5, 1883.

Lyman S. Crotser, University of Michigan, 1883, regular, Edmore, September 1, 1883.

Erastus H. Cummings, Hahnemann Medical College, University of Michigan, 1876, regular, Edmore, September 1, 1883.

A. H. Forsyth, University of Buffalo, 1882, regular, Lakeview, August 31, 1883.

James H. Moon, eclectic, Sheridan, September 7, 1883.

John H. Dumon, University of Michigan, 1877, regular, Crystal, September 6, 1883.

Charles O. Jenison, Bennett Medical College, 1877, eclectic, Greenville, August 30, 1883.

Morris Gibbs, Rush Medical College, 1879, Michigan University and Ypsilanti, 1875-76-77, regular, Howard City, September 17, 1883.

J. Newton Hathaway, Dartmouth Medical College, 1881, regular, Howard City, September 17, 1883.

Mrs. Sophronia B. Cummins, eclectic, McBride, September 10, 1883.

Silas M. Gleason, Hahnemann Medical College, 1880, homeopathic, Sheridan, September 18, 1883.

Edward Brewster, eclectic, McBride, September 22, 1883.

Valentine Cross, Cincinnati Medical College, 1859, eclectic, Crystal, September 19, 1883.

Hugh T. Hubbard, Detroit Medical College, 1883, regular, Sheridan, October 3, 1883.

Elias Fish, Starling Medical College, 1848, homeopathic, Greenville, October 3, 1883.

Truman Sawdy, eclectic, Howard City, October 8, 1883.

Alva W. Nichols, Bellevue Hospital Medical College, 1873, University of Michigan, regular, Greenville, October 9, 1883.

Lewis D. Wetmore, eclectic, Pierson, October 9, 1883.

John Avery, Cleveland Medical College, 1850, regular, Greenville, October 18, 1883.

H. L. Ash, Ohio Medical College, 1871, regular, Crystal, October 18, 1883.

Thomas Brayman, Britanic, October 27, 1883.

William Smith, Clairandean, Fairplain, November 1, 1883.

Charles F. Morgan, Yale Medical College, 1866, regular, Greenville, October 25, 1883.

Charles S. Cope, Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, Starling College, Columbus, 1875, regular, Edmore, October 9, 1883.

James Plank, Pierson, regular, November 6, 1883.

John Gray, University of New York City, 1879, regular, Trufant, November 8, 1883.

Mrs. Cornelia M. Barnes, eclectic, Fairplain, November 7, 1883.

H. E. Cummins, eclectic, McBride, November 3, 1883.

E. C. Sweet, eclectic, Montcalm county, October 27, 1883.

Caleb Griffith, homeopathic, Greenville, November 15, 1883.

James Totten, homeopathic, Pierson, November 20, 1883.

John J. Travis, University of Michigan, 1876, regular, Carson City, November 20, 1883.

G. P. Booth, eclectic, Montcalm county, November 14, 1883.

L. B. Lester, Hobart College, regular, Greenville, November 19, 1883.

Joel Soule, magnetic, Fairplain, November 26, 1883.

Samuel Morgan, Yale Medical College, 1875, regular, Howard City, October 8, 1883.

Burneth S. Frisbie, Syracuse Medical College, eclectic, Crystal, November 7, 1883.

Andrew B. Spinney, Western Homeopathic College, 1859, homeopathic, November 28, 1883.

Donald A. M. Donald, University of Michigan, 1876, regular, Montcalm county, December 4, 1883.

Joseph T. Kilborn, eclectic, Trufant, November 7, 1883.

Horace L. Bower, Albany Union University, 1864, regular, Greenville, September 13, 1883.

O. B. Sims, homeopathic, Carson City, September 4, 1883.

James A. Straigham, Hahnemann Medical College, 1877, homeopathic, Carson City, December 5, 1883.

Joshua Tennant, University of Michigan, 1872, regular, Carson City, December 5, 1883.

John J. Jush, University of Michigan, regular, Coral, December 5, 1883.

John A. Barry, regular, Maple Valley, December 5, 1883.

J. Lamout, regular, Carson City, December 6, 1883.

Ann Howell, Eclectopathic School of Canada, 1879, eclectic, Greenville, December 13, 1883.

G. F. Golden, eclectic, Coral, December 21, 1883.

Patrick Martin, University of Michigan, 1864, Bellevue Hospital and Medical College, 1867, regular, Carson City, December 26, 1883.

Mrs. Deborah T. Lindley, magnetic, Greenville, January 10, 1884.

Richard P. Comfort, Columbus Medical College, 1882, regular, McBride, January 19, 1884.

Elmira Berry, Pine, February 27, 1884.

Alexander Leslie, regular, McBride, March 4, 1884.

Diantha Butterworth, magnetic, Douglass, April 4, 1884.

Wilson B. Paine, Bellevue Hospital Medical College, 1884, regular, Greenville, April 7, 1884.

Solomon B. Knapp, Lansing Homeopathic College, 1872, homeopathic, Crystal, March 15, 1884.

George S. Townsend, homeopathic, Cato, April 8, 1884.

David H. Lord, Vermont Medical College, 1840, regular, Howard City, June 26, 1884.

Avery E. Alden, Eclectic Medical College, 1879, eclectic, November 19, 1884.

D. E. L. Robertson, eclectic, McBride, December 11, 1884.

B. J. Daniels, New York University, 1862, regular, February 17, 1885.

Orpheus Smith, homeopathic, Pierson, March 14, 1885.

Earl Brigham, Rush Medical College, 1885, regular, Vestaburg, May 11, 1885.

A. L. Brighnir, Trufant, May 15, 1885.

Walter J. Brucc, regular, Gowen, June 13, 1885.

Edwin Pierce Higgins, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1871, regular, July 14, 1885.

John B. Reed, August 31, 1885.

Charles W. Paine, University of Medicine and Surgery, 1876, eclectic, October 17, 1885.

Francis M. Kinney, January 29, 1886.

Rebecca A. Zink, March 11, 1886.

Elizabeth Paul, Gowen, May 20, 1886.

William C. Freeman, Trinity Medical College, 1876, regular, July 6, 1886.

Stephen A. Gates, Albany Medical College, 1878, regular, Crystal, December 1, 1886.

Fannie Brainard, Michigan University, 1877, regular, December 13, 1886.

Edwin F. Sayles, Beach Medical Institute, 1886, eclectic, December 14, 1886.

W. Andrew Dutt, Bennett Medical College, 1885, eclectic, December 15, 1886.

F. G. Wagan, Edmore, January 28, 1887.

James S. Campbell, magnetic and eclectic, Edmore, February 16, 1887.

George W. Forrest, regular, May 9, 1887.

Walter S. Shotwell, Homeopathic Medical College, 1882, homeopathic, June 24, 1887.

John L. Duston, eclectic, Howard City, August 17, 1887.

Levi Day, Western Medical Reserve College, 1850, regular, September 2, 1887.

C. D. Romans, Medical College of Ohio, 1881, regular, September 5, 1887.

Lyman A. Sayles, September 14, 1887.

Charles A. Sweet, College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1887, regular, September 27, 1887.

A. G. Goodson, eclectic, Pierson, October 19, 1887.

Hugh Fuller, eclectic, January 15, 1888.

C. J. Gardner, magnetic, Greenville, April 6, 1888.

Oliver O. Osborn, University of Maine, 1883, University of Ohio, 1884, eclectic, Fenwick, May 9, 1888.

Edward R. Close, eclectic, May 7, 1888.

George Chapman, regular and eclectic, April 13, 1888.

Fred K. Taylor, University of Bishops Medical College, 1888, regular, June 26, 1888.

Jay Lovett, eclectic, September 21, 1888.

Carl Buck, Enlongen University, Germany, 1876, regular, September 26, 1888.

Frank F. Ferguson, Trinity University, 1888, regular, September 21, 1888.

J. J. Austin, Bennett Medical College, 1872, eclectic, October 27, 1888.

Joseph S. Zukoskie, Medical College of Warsaw, Russia, 1867, regular, October 31, 1888.

George H. Powers, regular, October 14, 1888.

Wesley Miller, Columbus Medical College, 1876, regular, September 24, 1889.

Robert Henry Blaisdell, Indiana College of Medicine, 1884, regular, Crystal, November 3, 1889.

William M. Wemp, Detroit College of Medicine, 1886, regular, Edmore, March 12, 1890.

E. D. Newton, Detroit Medical College, 1883, regular, March 22, 1890.

Arthur S. Austin, Detroit College of Medicine, 1886, regular, April 12, 1890.

M. Beaty, Jefferson Medical College, 1877, regular, Entrican and Greenville, June 24, 1890.

Matthew Mack, University of Michigan, regular, October 5, 1890.

Lon A. Denman, Lakeview, November 29, 1890.

Elvira E. Jones, Eclectic School of Medicine, 1856, Carson City, June 16, 1891.

J. H. Sanderson, Michigan College of Medicine, 1890, regular, Edmore, September 16, 1891.

Charles L. DeLeon, Eclectic and Royal School of Physicians and Surgeons, 1874, eclectic, October 19, 1891.

William E. Rodgers, eclectic, February 3, 1892.

Mrs. Etta Gunn, August 2, 1892.

Wirt W. Jones, Buffalo Medical University, 1892, regular, November 13, 1892.

D. K. Black, Detroit College of Medicine, 1886, regular, Greenville, December 5, 1892.

Samuel E. Howard, Druidic Banchoreion Medical College, 1890, eclectic, Wyman, December 10, 1892.

Francis R. Blanchard, University of Michigan, 1891, regular, March, 1893.

Louis E. Deary, June 7, 1893.

Charles Baker, November 24, 1893.

R. L. Bently, University of Michigan, 1893, homeopathic, Stanton, December 7, 1893.

Charles A. Carle, Physicians and Surgeons Medical College, New York, 1867, regular, Entrican, March 1, 1894.

Allen S. Russell, College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1864, regular, March 24, 1894.

Lutetia A. Denman, April 3, 1894.

John Robinson, regular and eclectic, May 24, 1894.

William Kickland, Stanton, June 29, 1894.

John E. Fleming, Kansas City Hospital Medical College, 1885, homeopathic, August 22, 1894.

George W. Mallory, Starling Medical College, 1851, regular, Howard City, August, 1894.

Lyman W. Henry, eclectic, Pierson, September 21, 1894.

Frederick Stevens, Medical College of Indiana, 1879, March 27, 1895.

A. Lee Smith, Crystal, April, 1895.

Seymour A. Woodworth, Hahnemann Medical College, 1895, homeopathic, April 25, 1895.

Major L. Dasef, Detroit College of Medicine, 1895, regular, May 7, 1895.

Jay A. Lovett, Bennett Eclectic Medical College, 1890, eclectic, May 11, 1895.

Albert Stealy, Edmore, May 13, 1895.

A. E. Savage, Detroit College of Medicine, 1893, regular, Gowen, May 15, 1895.

Elba C. Van Decar, Excelsior College of Medicine, 1894, regular, May 21, 1895.

Oliver O. Osborn, Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery, 1895, regular, May 27, 1895.

John F. Joslin, Long Island College Hospital, 1869, regular, May 16, 1895.

William Alfred Kickland, University of Michigan, 1895, regular, June 29, 1895.

John A. Morey, University of Michigan, 1881, regular, Richland and Ferris, August 28, 1895.

U. A. D. Collelins, University of Pavia, 1890, regular, February 1, 1896.

Sophia B. Jones, University of Buffalo, 1883, regular, May 7, 1896.

John Harrison, Detroit College of Medicine, 1896, regular, June 17, 1896.

W. J. M. Lee, Illinois Health University, 1896, July 11, 1896.

Albert Stealy, Toledo Medical College, regular, August 6, 1896.

James W. Boucher, Eclectic Medical College, 1896, eclectic, August 31, 1896.

I. Winslow Ayer, Eclectic and Harvard Medical College, 1853, regular, September 8, 1896.

A. P. Culbertson, University of Michigan, 1884, regular, October 12, 1896.

Albert F. Haskins, Fenwick, November 5, 1896.

George E. Smith, Eclectic Medical College, 1897, eclectic, January 28, 1897.

Charles E. Armstrong, Independent Medical College, 1897, magnetic, February 27, 1897.

Benjamin F. Beardsley, Buffalo Medical College, 1865, regular, April 6, 1897.

Arthur D. Ballou, Michigan College of Medicine, 1897, regular, April 6, 1897.

C. J. Annes, Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery, 1892, regular, Pierson, May 11, 1897.

Lyman W. Soper, American Medical College, 1890, eclectic, November 6, 1897.

James C. Clarendon, Druidic University, 1882, eclectic, November 3, 1897.

James Purdon, Jefferson Medical College, 1897, the University Medical College, 1897, regular, February 4, 1898.

Gustave Nelson, University of Copenhagen, 1883, Louisville Medical College, 1893, regular, April 8, 1898.

Henry Salisbury, magnetic, June 28, 1898.

William Day, January 16, 1899.

Grant D. Soper, American Eclectic Medical College, 1891, eclectic February 28, 1899.

J. P. Young, College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1878, Crystal, March 14, 1899.

Will H. Lester, Kansas City Medical College, 1899, Greenville, May 6, 1899.

Penbroke Edwards, eclectic, July 1, 1899.

Edwin Hughs, Hahnemann College of Medicine, 1886, homeopathic, July 7, 1899.

William Robbie, Harvey Medical College, 1899, regular, September 6, 1899.

George Dakin, Western University, 1899, dentist, Stanton, September 27, 1899.

Marion W. Swarthout, Independent Medical College, 1898, regular, Greenville, October 5, 1899.

Claude Adams, Cleveland College of Medicine, 1854, regular, Lakeview, October 5, 1899.

John W. Kirtland, Hahnemann Medical College, 1878, homeopathic, October 5, 1899.

Elam Mann, magnetic, October 23, 1899.

Claude Boorie Root, Northern Institute of Osteopathy, 1901, osteopathic, January 6, 1902.

LATER REGISTRATION.

By an act approved on September 23, 1899, all physicians were required to register again, and certain requirements were fixed in the legislative act covering the eligibility of physicians under the registration statute. The list of registrations since the going into effect of that act is as follow:

R. Leighton Bentley, Stanton, January 25, 1900; A. P. Culbertson, Vickeryville, January 26, 1900; J. F. Kilburn, Trufant, January 26, 1900; A. E. Savage, Gowen, January 26, 1900; James Purdon, Edmore, January 26, 1900; C. F. Morgan, Greenville, January 26, 1900; John Phipps, Stanton, January 22, 1900; Francis P. Blanchard, Lakeview, March 22, 1900; Elias Fish, Greenville, March 22, 1900; William P. Gamber, Stanton, March 22, 1900; A. William Foy, Central Lake, January 26, 1900; Lyman S. Crotsen, Edmore, March 22, 1900; Daniel C. Bell, McBride, January 26, 1900; H. B. Johnson, Sheridan, March 22, 1900; S. M. Gleason, Greenville, January 26, 1900; Thomas B. Dowden, Lansing, January 26, 1900; Nor-

man E. Bachman, Stanton, March 22, 1900; Charles M. Martin, Greenville, March 22, 1900; Sophronia Cummings Walsh, Westville, March 22, 1900; Charles O. Jenison, Greenville, March 22, 1900; John G. Just, Coral, March 22, 1900; Robert H. Blaisdell, Sheridan, March 22, 1900; John Avery, Greenville, March 22, 1900; Cyrenius C. Sayles, Langston, March 22, 1900; Albert Stealy, Fenwick, March 22, 1900; Gustava M. L. Nelson, Trufant, March 22, 1900; Elaine Mann, Stanton, March 22, 1900; John Tyler Joslin, Lakeview, May 8, 1900; William Richardson, Carson City, January 26, 1900; Frederick Taylor, Carson City, January 26, 1900; John W. Kirtland, Lakeview, March 22, 1900; Carl M. Bock, Greenville, March 22, 1900; Jay A. Lovett, Carson City, March 22, 1900; H. L. Bower, Greenville, January 26, 1900; Alva Winslow Nichols, Greenville, January 26, 1900; Cornelia M. Barnes, Amsden, March 22, 1900; Arthur D. Ballou, Vestaburg, March 22, 1900; Josiah Black, Belding, March 22, 1900; James Totten, Howard City, March 22, 1900; William H. Belknap, Greenville, July 31, 1900; Stanley Monroe, Berlin, July 31, 1900; Duncan K. Black, Greenville, January 26, 1900; Allen L. Corey, Stanton, March 22, 1900; James A. Stringham, Carson City, January 26, 1900; L. B. Lester, Greenville, January 26, 1900; Will H. Lester, Greenville, January 26, 1900; Charles A. Carle, Entrican, March 22, 1900; George S. Townsend, Six Lakes, March 22, 1900; S. Darwin Boughnere, Grand Rapids, March 22, 1900; Benjamin L. Franklin, Merrill, March 22, 1900; Benjamin W. Franklin, Merrill, March 22, 1900; Frank L. Ferguson, Howard City, March 22, 1900; Jan Odell Nelson, Howard City, March 22, 1900; J. P. Young, Crystal, March 22, 1900; J. Audley Young, Crystal, May 22, 1901; Adelbert Wesley Martin, Vicksburg, July 8, 1901; Elmer Lucius Street, Ithaca, November 23, 1901; William H. Haskins, Edmore, March 22, 1901; S. S. Ludlum, Howell, March 22, 1900; Almond A. DeGroat, Woodville, March 22, 1900; Eugene S. Robertson, Lansing, January 26, 1900; Samuel E. Morgan, Sunfield, March 22, 1900; E. Maude Whelpley, Sunfield, June 2, 1902; J. D. Whelpley, Grand Rapids, May 8, 1900; Rayburn B. Smith, Saginaw, May 14, 1903; John McIntosh, Whittemore, March 22, 1900; George Lewis Bond, Ann Arbor, June 18, 1903; Louis C. Jacobson, Sheridan, August 19, 1903; William B. Dove, Muskegon, January 26, 1900; Elba C. Van Decar, Saginaw, May 21, 1902; Cyrus Bunting Gardner, Pickney, August 19, 1904; Fred A. Johnson, Ann Arbor, June 22, 1904; Charles Reid Lawson, Detroit, April 21, 1903; Rudolph Pickard Miller, Battle Creek, July 6, 1903; William G. Young, Saginaw, May 14, 1903; Lee E. Kelsey, Lakeview, June 22, 1904; James C. Valentine, Ypsilanti, May 15, 1901; Francis J. Fralick,

Northport, January 26, 1900; Jorgen W. Hansen, Trufant, August 23, 1905; Stanley Ray Coleman, Carson City, August 25, 1905; Lewis E. Bracey, Detroit, May 4, 1905; George Henry Lewis, Greenville, August 8, 1905; Richard Coles Lyle, Jr., Detroit, May 19, 1905; Ernest M. H. Highfield, Detroit, November 11, 1904; Richard H. Wood, Montrose, March 22, 1900; Melvin C. Hubbard, Detroit, May 17, 1906; Albert James Bower, Greenville, August 8, 1905; John A. Innis, Lakeview, March 22, 1906; John C. Salmon, Shelby, January 26, 1900; Clinton D. Woodruff, Allegan, March 22, 1900; Walter Anson Lee, Sheridan, February 23, 1907; Edmund W. Bolio, Coral, March 22, 1900; Walter C. Walker, Detroit, March 22, 1900; John F. Taber, Harvard, March 22, 1900; Temple K. Brown, Fowlerville, July 16, 1907; Mortimer E. Danforth, Ann Arbor, June 6, 1902; Frederick Eugene Warren, Sparta, April 21, 1908; George Richardson Stark, Grand Rapids, June 4, 1903; Horace E. Hungerford, Bennett, March 22, 1900; Richard Coles Lyle, Jr., Detroit, May 19, 1905; Edward Bollinger, Kankakee, Illinois, October 1, 1903; Lyman W. Soper, Rockland, March 22, 1900; Albert W. Sovereign, Vanderbilt, March 22, 1901; Donald Alexander McLean, Stanton, April 9, 1910; Arthur W. Woodburne, Caro, January 26, 1900; Omar J. East, Vandalia, March 22, 1900; Henry C. Carpenter, Woodland, March 22, 1900; P. Jay Rohrig, Ferry, March 22, 1900; John Robert Hansen, Trufant, June 30, 1911; Louis Adelbert Wardell, Hastings, September 1, 1911; Charles W. Lozar, Detroit, May 11, 1910; Noble William Miller, Howard City, May 18, 1912; Bert C. Sickles, Bellaire, January 26, 1900; Albert Stewart Barr, Ann Arbor, June 24, 1909; Frederick H. Ferguson, Fronto, New York, July 13, 1901; Earl Perchel Bruce, Williamsburg, May 26, 1911; Don Vilette Hargrave, Palo, June 19, 1913; George W. Barber, Greenville, November 1, 1913; William Anson Forester, Cleveland, Ohio, January 26, 1903; Howard Norton Flexer, Lakeview, June 17, 1904; George Edward Horne, Auburn, May 11, 1906; Philip T. Leighly, Stanton, July 27, 1915; James Albert Paul Duncan, Carson City, May 3, 1906.

NURSES.

The following nurses are registered in Montcalm county and with their names are given the dates of their respective registrations: Mrs. Kathryn Kirtland, April 28, 1911; Grace Derby Wells, January 18, 1912; Mrs. James Purdom, January 18, 1912; Jean McDonald Clark, April 28, 1912; Grace Lois Miller, November 6, 1912; Mary Helen Mack, December 3, 1914, and Lillian McQueen Kelsey, August 29, 1914.

OPTOMETRISTS.

The following is a complete list of the registrations of optometrists in Montcalm county: Claude Wolfe, January 2, 1910; George E. Flint, March 29, 1910; Dwight B. Herrick, March 29, 1910; George C. Williams, March 29, 1910; James L. Lazier, March 30, 1910; John W. Davis, March 30, 1910; Ashman Stoddard, May 10, 1910; Jacob Miller, May 10, 1910; Clarence L. Gilmour, September 8, 1910; William E. Bonnewell, June 5, 1910, and Ira M. Stromsta, November 21, 1910. A large percentage of these registrations were made at Saginaw, although there was one each made at Grand Rapids, Detroit and Muskegon.

George W. Baker registered as a drugless healer with the state board of registration in medicine, on November 1, 1913.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

POLITICAL AND STATISTICAL.

The Democrats carried Montcalm county in 1852, the first presidential election after the county was organized, but with that exception and the further exception of the Progressive upheaval in 1912, the Republican candidates for presidential electors have had an unbroken chain of victories in the county.

In 1912, although Gustavus D. Pope who headed the Progressive candidates for presidential electors, received an unprecedented vote of 2,853 to 1,876 for the Republican candidates and 1,381 for the Democratic candidates, the county gave Amos S. Mussleman, the Republican candidate for governor, 2,393 votes; Woodbridge N. Ferris, the Democratic candidate, 2,151 votes and Lucius W. Watkins, the Progressive candidate, 1,597 votes.

In 1914, the Progressive candidate for governor polled only 150 votes in Montcalm county, while former Governor Chase S. Osborn, the Republican candidate that year, polled 2,328 votes to 1,591 for Woodbridge N. Ferris, the Democratic candidate, who, by the way, was re-elected.

Although the Blaine candidates for presidential electors carried Montcalm county in 1884, by a plurality of 59, the fusion candidates of the Democrats and Greenbackers were largely successful in local offices. The Republicans elected the sheriff, register of deeds, prosecuting attorney, surveyor and coroners, besides their candidates for representatives and circuit court commissioner. The Democrats and Greenbackers elected the judge of probate, clerk and treasurer. The county gave Congressman Horr a plurality of two votes over the fusion candidate, T. E. Tarsney, who was elected.

The "mugwump" campaign of 1884 had been very bitterly fought out between the Republicans on the one hand and the Democrats and Greenbackers on the other. The Democratic county chairman in the fight of 1884 was W. E. Hoyt, while the Greenback county chairman was Dr. A. W. Nichols, of Greenville.

Commenting upon the election in the issue of November 14, 1884, the *Stanton Weekly Clipper*, which obviously was anti-Republican, said:

"The Democrats and Greenbackers indulged in a general celebration of

the results of the election Saturday night. Of course, the Democrats were exceedingly happy over the election of Cleveland and the fusion congressman, and the principal part of the county ticket and the Greenbackers were equally rejoiced over their share of the success of the fusion ticket. Well they might be because every man of them stood shoulder to shoulder with their Democratic brethren in the fight, that was crowned with victory, and did his full share in the common cause. Hence all joined in the general rejoicing amid the booming of cannon. About one hundred guns were fired, speeches were made, fires kindled and stores, offices and houses illuminated. The band furnished splendid music for the occasion and the town was painted scarlet. With all of the jollification no Republican had occasion to say that he was in any way imposed upon or illtreated and the affair passed off without any unwarranted act or disturbance. All in all it was the jolliest time Stanton ever saw."

Congressman R. G. Horr of the eighth Michigan district who was defeated for re-election in 1884 came to be one of the best-known men in the country. T. E. Tarsney, who defeated him, was a brilliant young lawyer of Saginaw and of Irish parentage.

In 1888, Gen. Benjamin Harrison carried Montcalm county over Cleveland by a plurality of 985 and Cyrus G. Luce for governor was given a plurality of 1,000 over Wellington R. Burt, the Democratic candidate for the same office. In 1892, President Harrison received a plurality of 1,497 over Grover Cleveland in Montcalm county, and John T. Rich, the Republican candidate for governor was given a plurality of 1,316 over Allen B. Morse, the Democratic candidate. In 1896, William McKinley received a plurality of 872 over William J. Bryan, and Hazen S. Pingree, Republican, running for governor, received a plurality of 931 over Charles R. Sligh, the Democratic candidate. In 1898, Pingree again carried Montcalm county by 1,088. In 1900, President McKinley received a plurality of 2,198 in Montcalm county, and Aaron T. Bliss, the Republican candidate for governor, a plurality of 2,042 over William C. Maybury, the Democratic candidate. Governor Bliss received a plurality of 1,300 in Montcalm county, in 1902, over Lorenzo T. Durand, Democrat.

In the landslide of 1904, President Roosevelt received a plurality of 3,970 over Alton B. Parker and Fred M. Warner, the Republican candidate for governor, a plurality of 1,193 over Woodbridge N. Ferris, the Democratic candidate.

Two years later, Governor Warner, running for re-election, received a plurality of 1,145 over Charles H. Kimmerle, the Democratic candidate for

governor. In 1908, William H. Taft, the Republican candidate for president, received a plurality of 2,860 over William J. Bryan in Montcalm county. In 1910, Chase S. Osborn, who was elected as the Republican candidate for governor of Michigan, received a plurality of 821 in Montcalm county. This was the beginning of the Republican defection in Montcalm county, and, in fact, throughout the nation, which culminated in the complete defeat of the party in 1912.

The presidential vote of Montcalm county, since the first election in 1852, is as follows:

1852—Scott, Whig	120
Pierce, Democrat	156
Hale, Free Soil	6
1856—Fremont, Republican	414
Buchanan, Democrat	265
1860—Lincoln, Republican	565
Douglass, Democrat	361
1864—Lincoln, Republican	595
McClellan, Democrat	443
1868—Grant, Republican	1,520
Seymour, Democrat	833
1872—Grant, Republican	2,010
Greeley, Democrat and Liberal	750
O'Connor, Democrat	11
1876—Hayes, Republican	3,106
Tilden, Democrat	2,445
Cooper, Greenback	77
1880—Garfield, Republican	4,163
Hancock, Democrat	2,770
Weaver, Greenback	763
1884—Blaine, Republican	3,857
Cleveland, Democrat	3,798
1888—Harrison, Republican	4,480
Cleveland, Democrat	3,495
1892—Harrison, Republican	3,627
Cleveland, Democrat	2,208
1896—McKinley, Republican	4,523
Bryan, Democrat	3,651
1900—McKinley, Republican	4,826

Bryan, Democrat -----	2,638
1904—Roosevelt, Republican -----	5,342
Parker, Democrat -----	1,372
1908—Taft, Republican -----	4,585
Bryan, Democrat -----	1,725
1912—Taft, Republican -----	1,876
Wilson, Democrat -----	1,381
Roosevelt, Progressive -----	2,853

ADOPTING THE CONSTITUTION.

The first constitutional convention in which Montcalm county was represented was held in the year 1867. This convention convened at Lansing, May 15, 1867, and adjourned on August 22, 1867. Although there had been conventions held in 1835, 1836 and 1850 they were held before Montcalm took on a permanent organization. George F. Case represented Montcalm county in the convention of 1867. The delegates to this convention were elected on April 1, 1867, in pursuance of Act No. 41, of the session laws of 1867. The Constitution, as revised by this convention, was submitted to the people on April 6, 1868 and rejected by a vote of 71,733 yeas, to 110,582 nays.

In 1873 a constitutional commisison was appointed by the governor and consisted of two members from each congressional district of the state, pursuant to joint resolution No. 19 of the Legislature of 1873. There were no members in this commission elected from Montcalm county. This Constitution was submitted to the people on November 3, 1874, and rejected by a vote of 39,285 yeas to 124,034 nays.

The next and last constitutional convention convened at Lansing on October 22, 1907, and adjourned on March 3, 1908. This convention consisted of ninety-six delegates who were elected on September 17, 1907 according to the provisions of Act No. 272 of 1907. Three delegates were elected from each of the thirty-two senatorial districts as districted by Act No. 264 of 1895. Frederick J. Baldwin, of Coral, represented Montcalm county and was one of the three delegates elected from the eighteenth district. The new constitution was submitted to the people on November 3, 1908, in pursuance to a writ of mandamus issued out of the supreme court on March 9, 1908, and adopted by a vote of 244,705 to 130,783.

Since the enactment of local option laws in this state, Montcalm county has voted five times on the local option question. In 1903, prohibition car-

ried in the county by a majority of 118 votes. Two years later the county voted against prohibition by a majority of 1,567. Prohibition lost again in 1909 by a majority of 302 but carried in 1911 by a majority of 532. In 1913, Montcalm county gave a majority of 144 in favor of local option.

Interesting in this connection is the vote cast by Montcalm county at the general election of 1912 on the proposed amendment to the constitution giving to women the right of suffrage in the state. Although the amendment lost in the state by the small majority of 760, it carried in Montcalm county, where there were 3,315 votes in favor of the proposition and 2,705 against it. Montcalm county is now joined with Ionia, Clinton, Gratiot, Saginaw and Shiawassee counties in the eighth Congressional district which according to the census of 1910 had a total population of 240,104. For senatorial purposes, Montcalm county is joined with Ionia county and together they constitute the eighteenth Senatorial district. For the purpose of electing a representative to the state Legislature, Montcalm county constitutes a single district. Montcalm and Ionia counties are also joined together in the eighth judicial district.

STATE SENATORS.

Josiah Russell bears the distinction of being the first state senator elected from the newly-created county of Montcalm. He was elected in November of 1852 and served in the session of 1853. At that time Montcalm county was in the twenty-fifth district. Stephen H. Warren was the next state senator elected from Montcalm county. He was elected in November, 1856, and served in the sessions of 1857-58 and at that time Montcalm county had been changed to the thirtieth district. Westbrook Divine was next elected in 1862 and again in 1864, serving in the sessions of 1863-64-65 and at that time Montcalm county was in the twenty-eighth district. Henry H. Hinds served in the legislative sessions of 1873-74 and was elected from the twenty-seventh district. Joseph P. Shoemaker served in the sessions of 1879, representing the twenty-fourth district. James Belknap was the next state senator from Montcalm county, taking his seat in the sessions of 1883-85 from the twenty-first district. Aaron B. Brown was elected in November, 1890, and served in the sessions of 1891-92 from the twenty-third district. Edgar S. Wagar served in the Legislature of the state in the sessions of 1897-98-99-1900 from the eighteenth district. Charles H. Laflamboy served in the session of 1903 from the eighteenth

district and the last member was William H. Bradley who served in the sessions of 1909-11 from the eighteenth district.

REPRESENTATIVES IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Ananias Worden, 1847; Henry H. Moore, 1850; Charles C. Ellsworth, 1852; Rosecrans K. Divine, 1854; John D. Fargo, 1856; Jacob Ferris, 1858; Martin P. Follett, 1860; Levi Camburn, 1864-66; Dr. John Avery, 1868; Richard C. Miller, 1870-72; William Backus, 1875; Stephen R. Stevens, 1876-78; Stallham W. LaDu, 1880-82; S. Perry Youngs, first district, 1883; Edwin K. Wood, first district, 1885; James W. Robinson, first district, 1887; Norris J. Brown, first district, 1889; Lucius L. Church, second district, 1891-92-93; Edgar S. Wagar, first district, 1893-95; Henry Kent, second district, 1895; Chester A. Miller, second district, 1897-98-99-1900; Arthur L. Bemis, first district, 1897-98; Barry J. Lowery, second district, 1900; Charles Laflamboy, first district, 1898-99-1900-01; Cornelius D. De Young, 1909.

COUNTY TREASURERS.

John Porter was the first treasurer for Montcalm county. He was elected on April 1, 1850 and re-elected on November 5, 1850, and again on November 2, 1852. Joseph Griffith was elected on November 7, 1854; Bedford Birch, 1856-58; Levi Camburn, 1860-62; Albert S. French, 1864-66-68-70; Henry Kent, 1872-74; George Howorth, 1876-78; William M. Thomas, 1880-82; Orville F. Mason, 1884-86; Martin Richland, 1888-90; George Douglass, 1892-94; Lucas Miel, 1896-1898; Benson L. Gaffiels, 1900-02; W. M. Hattie, 1904-06; Benson Gaffiels, 1908; W. J. Stearns, 1910-12; Frank W. Bailey, 1914.

SHERIFFS.

Ginson S. Fargo was elected on April 1 and November 5, 1850; Abel French, April 7, 1851, and November 2, 1852; Dan T. Fargo, November 7, 1854; Chauncy W. Olmsted, 1856; William Phinsey, 1858-60; Hiram Amsbury, 1862; Hiram B. Fargo, 1864; Decatur O. Blake, 1866; Ira C. Horton, 1868-70; DeWitt C. Carpenter, 1872; Zenas E. Briggs, 1874; Leonard Rossman, 1876-78; John Q. Crippen, 1880; Jacob G. Summers, 1884-86; Newton A. Porter, 1888-90; Charles M. King, 1892-94; James K.

Train, 1896-98; Elliott O. Bellows, 1900-02; J. Wesley Gaffield, 1904-06; Alphonsus E. Ward, 1908-10; William E. Rasmussen, 1912-14.

COUNTY CLERKS.

Enos T. Peck began his services as county clerk when the county was first organized. His name is found on documents as early as April 9, 1850. He was first elected on November 5, 1850. John A. Miner was elected on November 2, 1852, and Enos Peck was re-elected on November 7, 1856. Seth Sprague was elected on April 7, 1856; and was re-elected on November, 1856, and again in 1858. The later clerks follow in order: William Backus, 1860; Bedford Birch, 1862; Aaron Lynn, 1864-66-68; H. Irving Garbutt, 1870-72; S. Perry Youngs, 1874-76; Joseph M. Fuller, 1878-80-82; Frank A. Lamb, 1884-86; William S. Whittlesey, 1888-90-92; John W. Dasef, 1894-96; John W. Nickerson, 1898-1900; Charles L. Meach, 1902-04-06; W. Glenn Abbott, 1908-10; H. W. Taylor, 1912; Alfred L. Stearns, 1914.

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

Newcomb J. Ireland was elected on April 1, 1850; Westbrook Divine was elected on November 5, 1850, and re-elected on November 2, 1852; Lucius E. Backus, November 7, 1854; Frank T. Peck, November 7, 1856; Daniel A. Cornell, 1858-60-62; Bedford Birch, 1864; Jenson P. Beers, 1866-68; Thomas N. Stevens, 1870; Oscar Fenn, 1872-74; Edwin N. Finch, 1876-78; Thomas N. Stevens, 1880-82-84-86; Charles M. Northrup, 1888-90; F. C. Snyder, 1892; W. P. Lunn, 1894-96; S. B. Newcomb, 1898-1900; Lemuel L. Teed, 1902-04; Robert Montgomery, 1906-08; Allen B. Dickerson, 1910-12-14.

COUNTY SURVEYORS.

Josiah Bradish was the first surveyor for the newly-created county of Montcalm. He was first elected on April 1, 1850, and re-elected on November 5, of the same year. Dan T. Fargo was elected on November 2, 1852; James B. Farnsworth, November 7, 1854; Henry M. Caukin, 1856; Asa Ward, 1858; Henry M. Caukin, 1860; Edward H. Jones, 1862; Edward H. Jones, November 7, 1864; Henry M. Caukin, 1866-68; Henry E. W. Palmer, 1870-72; A. De F. Gardner, 1874; Francello A. Palmer, 1876-78-80-82; James F. White, 1884; Henry M. Caukin, 1886; Edward H. Jones, 1888-90; William A. Sweet, Jr., 1892; Henry M. Caukin, 1894-96-98-1900-02;

John F. Daoust, 1904-06-08; E. Deiff Youdan, 1910-12; R. D. McNutt, 1914.

COUNTY CORONERS.

John Green, April 1, 1850; C. W. Olmsted, April 1, 1850; Ethan Satterlee, November 5, 1850; George Van Ness, November 5, 1850; Ursin Goodman, November 2, 1852; George Van Ness, November 2, 1852; Seth Sprague, November 7, 1854; Mark Willsley, November 7, 1854; Harvey Allen, Joseph E. Morrison, 1856; Joseph B. White and Harvey Allen, 1858; Henry Berridge and Richard C. Miller, 1860; Henry Berridge and Richard C. Miller, 1862; Egbert L. Heath and Harvey Allen, 1864; Luman Meach and Charles M. Woodard, 1866; Levi Camburn and Harvey Allen, 1868; Oscar Fenn and Alonzo H. Monroe, 1870; Seth M. Moon and Levi Camburn, 1872; George Howorth and David H. Lord, 1874; James H. Moon and Emory J. Blanding, 1876; William H. Snyder and Hezekiah B. Ramsey, 1878; Walton C. Sherwood and Norman E. Bachman, 1880; Walton C. Sherwood and Charles W. Stafford, 1882; Horace J. Pixley and Norman E. Bachman, 1884; Daniel W. Day and Barnwell B. Clark, 1886; Daniel W. Day and Barnwell B. Clark, 1888; Davis D. Clough and William H. Budd, 1890; William R. Griffith and Barnwell B. Clark, 1892; Barnwell B. Clark and Isaac L. Tower, 1894-96; John Reynolds, 1898-1900-02-04-06-08-10-12-14; Walter Mosier 1898; Norman L. Otis, 1900; Cyrenius C. Sagles, 1902; Charles M. King, 1904-06-08-10; Robert Secunah, 1912-14.

SUPERVISORS OF MONTCALM COUNTY.

Eureka Township.

George Loucks, 1851; S. Rossman, 1852; D. C. Moore, 1854; S. Rossman, 1855; W. Divine, 1856; J. M. Fuller, 1857; W. Divine, 1859; H. Serviss, 1882; Herman Johnston, 1882; Frank A. Moon, 1884; Ezra Satterlee, 1866; F. C. Snyder, 1888; George W. Gravelle, 1891; Dana Bower, 1904; John E. Taylor, 1909; George B. King, 1913.

Belvidere Township.

George Wysel, 1867; George Wysel, 1870; William Gardner, 1873; L. C. Sumner, 1874; C. H. Corlis, 1876; William Gardner, 1878; John Van Duren, 1879; William Gardner, 1880; Albert E. Hunter, 1881; William H.

Johnson, 1886; A. E. Hunter, 1888; L. M. Miel, 1892; Albert E. Hunter, 1897; William H. Helmick, 1900; L. D. Love, 1903; William H. Helmick, 1904; W. A. Wood, 1905; Thomas Musson, 1907; L. D. Love, 1912; Albert A. Aliny, 1915.

Bushnell Township.

Chauncey W. Olmstead, 1850; W. Castel, 1852; Chauncey W. Olmstead, 1853; William Castel, 1854; Chauncey W. Olmstead, 1856; William Castel, 1857; Stephen Alchine, 1861; William Castel, 1862; John K. Gillet, 1863; William Castel, 1864; Lora C. Jenks, 1866; William Castel, 1867; Lora C. Jenks, 1868; George Howarth, 1871; Robert W. Hoy, 1873; John H. Chapman, 1882; Robert W. Hoy, 1884; William Castel, 1885; R. W. Hoy, 1886; L. A. Bush, 1891; John W. Lunn, 1893; R. W. Hoy, 1896; James Wescott, 1897; Vir C. Allchin, 1903; James Wescott, 1904; Vir C. Allchin, 1907.

Bloomer Township.

George Benjamin, 1852; Mark Wilsey, 1853; Asa Ward, 1854; William Patrick, 1855; Benjamin F. Fuller, 1858; William Patrick, 1859; Aaron Lyon, 1860; John T. Irish, 1862; Benjamin F. Fuller, 1863; William Patrick, 1865; C. C. Forbush, 1866; Alfred W. Holmes, 1867; Charles R. Dickinson, 1868; Charles R. Dickinson, 1878; Vinal B. Luce, 1882; Thomas J. Cooper, Charles R. Dickinson, 1885; W. A. Sweet, 1894; C. R. Dickinson, 1895; George H. Lester, 1898; Robert Montgomery, 1900; Charles F. Dickensen, 1906; Otis J. Cliffe, 1907; Charles F. Dickensen, 1908.

Crystal Township.

Daniel A. Cornell, 1856; A. A. Proctor, 1857; John L. Smith, 1860; Isaac Morse, 1863; John Burke, 1864; James M. Beck, 1865; Gilbert Ward, 1871; James M. Beck, 1874; Gilbert Ward, 1875; Abraham Mench, 1877; Milton H. Lascelle, 1881; Martin Kickland, 1882; A. Mench, 1884; Charles Swarthout, 1886; Martin Barger, 1888; George Lester, 1891; Charles Swarthout, 1892; George Lester, 1893; Charles Swarthout, 1895; Lemuel J. Teed, 1896; George Lester, 1903; Charles Lute, 1904; George H. Lester, 1906; James H. Steere, 1910; W. S. George, 1913; L. J. Teed, 1915.

Cato Township.

Harvey E. Tucker, 1857; David R. Hart, 1858; Albert S. French, 1859; Ellsworth H. Stryker, 1864; George W. Crabb, 1870; Ellsworth H. Stryker, 1871; Elias H. Heath, 1872; E. R. Ellinwood, 1873; Aaron Amidon, 1877; Oscar A. Adams, 1878; John H. Jensen, 1879; C. H. Stebbins, 1888; George C. Youngman, 1889; John H. Jensen, 1896; George C. Youngman, John H. J. Jensen, 1908; Scott Swarthout, 1915.

Reynolds Township.

David Swarthout, 1869; A. F. Stevens, 1870; Amos R. Mather, 1871; Austin C. Leonard, 1876; William F. Thompson, 1877; Solomon Lisk, 1879; Albert P. Thomas, 1880; Frank A. Lamb, 1884; Alexander Denton, 1886; Solomon Lisk, 1888; C. C. Messenger, 1893; Alex Denton, 1899; C. A. Van Denbergh, 1900; Austine Barber, 1903; Lucius L. Church, 1904; Clarence M. Gates, 1914.

Day Township.

Sylvester Derby, 1865; George F. Case, 1866; Edwin K. Wood, 1869; George F. Case, 1870; E. D. Finch, 1871; George F. Case, 1873; George Howarth, 1874; Asa Morse, 1876; Henry H. Hinds, 1877; A. F. Gardner, 1880; Andrew B. Nevins, 1880; Samuel L. Mead, 1882; D. J. Maynard, 1884; L. C. Palmer, 1888; Volney Heath, 1889; Frank Boyer, 1891; O. J. Houton, 1892; W. A. Carpenter, 1895; Jacob McCrea, 1896; Frank Boyer, 1897; Lotton Kelly, 1914.

Evergreen Township.

Aaron Abbey, 1864; Mortimer Gilleo, 1865; Jonathan Forbes, 1866; Mortimer Gilleo, 1867; Thomas E. Dunn, 1868; Charles H. Stanton, 1870; John S. Maning, 1872; George Holland, 1873; John S. Maning, 1875; George Holland, 1876; Ephraim Follett, 1880; George Holland, 1886; Alan-son McComb, 1888; Ephraim Follett, 1888; Robert Evans, 1891; John F. Fumagan, 1898; Robert Evans, 1900; W. J. Stearns, 1901; Robert Evans, 1906; John H. Mitchell, 1913.

Fairplain Township.

Rufus K. Moore, 1850; Josiah Russell, 1851; Charles H. Miel, 1852; Mark Dibben, 1853; C. W. Miel, 1854; Daniel Fargo, 1855; Bradley, B. Crawford, 1856; Quartus Joslyn, 1857; Martin P. Follett, 1859; John D. Fargo, 1862; William M. Porter, 1867; Elijah Coffren, 1868; Henry Kent, 1870; John D. Fargo, 1872; Tyler M. Burley, 1873; James H. Moon, 1874; N. H. Evans, 1875; Henry Kent, 1878.

Ferris Township.

Peter Schlappie, 1857; Micajah Douglass, 1862; Egbert L. Heath, 1863; John D. Throop, 1865; Egbert L. Heath, 1866; Calvin M. Woodard, 1867; Egbert L. Heath, 1869; Calvin W. Dalloff, 1871; H. Douglass, 1873; Egbert L. Heath, 1874; O. F. Mason, 1876; Micajah Douglass, 1882; O. F. Mason, 1884; Thomas Wood, 1885; Frank A. Dyer, 1886; George Douglass, 1891; W. A. Mahie, 1893; E. O. Bellows, 1895; Grant Terwilliger, 1901; William Kirker, 1903; Alfred L. Stearns, 1906; James P. Throop, 1910; Alfred L. Stearns, 1911; C. L. Hicks, 1913.

Pine Township.

Joseph Wilcox, 1862; John E. Bloomburg, 1871; Zenas Briggs, 1872; Joseph Wilcox, 1875; William D. Bellows, 1878; Joseph Wilcox, 1880; Thomas K. Ward, 1882; C. J. Nielsen, 1888; Fred D. Briggs, 1889; William McHattie, 1895; L. B. Farnsworth, 1896; Lars Johnson, 1902; John Attnen, 1904; William McHattie, 1911; L. B. Farnsworth, 1914.

Home Township.

A. M. Volaker, 1879; Charles S. Knight, 1881; W. S. Whittlesey, 1886; F. H. Geiger, 1889; James K. Train, 1892; Charles E. Taylor, 1897; George Mathison, 1902; James K. Train, 1904; George A. Fournie, 1905; William V. Crockett, 1914.

Maple Valley Township.

Charles Parker, 1864; Philo B. Ingham, 1868; Henry Stamp, 1869; Samuel Wiseman, 1871; D. L. Shook, 1872; Charles Parker, 1873; A. C.

Fisher, 1875; William Birkett, 1880; John S. Klock, 1881; Wesley L. Burnette, 1883; Thomas Kaine, 1884; R. M. Wright, 1885; Newton A. Porter, 1886; Frank Bailey, 1889; Thomas Kaine, 1891; Frank A. Bailey, 1902; George B. King, 1909; Frank Bailey, 1910; Van I. Reynolds, 1914.

Pierson Township.

M. C. Purdy, 1862; Henry M. Carpenter, 1864; O. A. Pierson, 1865; Henry M. Carpenter, 1866; James D. Parker, 1870; Joseph De Wolf, 1880; J. D. Pardee, 1888; J. R. De Wolf, 1889; S. B. Newcomb, 1897; A. S. McNoughton, 1899; Martin H. Holcomb, 1903; Franklin B. Henkel, 1908.

Douglass Township.

S. L. Smith, 1864; T. J. Scidmore, 1867; S. L. Smith, 1869; James Lee, 1871; S. L. Smith, 1872; Charles W. Bloomberg, 1873; Silas L. Smith, 1879; Charles Bloomberg, 1880; George Bucknell, 1882; Corydon Rice, 1886; George Buckrell, 1888; Edwin Porter, 1891; Charles W. Bloomberg, 1897; Edwin Porter, 1898; George Comden, 1914.

Montcalm Township.

Frederick W. Worden, 1845; Ananias Worden, 1846; Josiah Russell, 1847; Rosekrans Divine, 1849; Volney Belding, 1850; Elihu Burrington, 1851; W. T. Potter, 1853; Frank S. Peck, 1854; William T. Potter, 1856; Stephen Rossman, 1857; Newell J. Pratt, 1861; Daniel S. Smith, 1862; Thomas Spencer, 1864; Stephen Rossman, 1867; Frederick Spencer, 1870; Henry Smith, 1871; H. S. Sharpe, 1872; Horace J. Pixley, 1873; Isaac Underwood, 1879; Horace J. Pixley, 1880; Henry S. Sharp, 1912; Peter Nielson, 1913; Henry S. Sharpe, 1915.

Winfield Township.

Andrew J. Macomber, 1865; Eben R. Ellinwood, 1866; D. E. Knight, 1870; H. C. Smith, 1872; J. M. Dickerson, 1873; L. L. Church, 1880; Van S. Reynolds, 1891; J. W. Gaffield, 1892; L. L. Church, 1893; O. D. Wilson, 1896; B. L. Gaffield, 1898; A. B. Dickerson, 1901; Enoch C. Yanke, 1907; Frank P. Church, 1913.

Sidney Township.

William F. Turner, 1871; Franklin H. French, 1875; Harvey W. Rill, 1876; Franklin H. French, 1877; William F. Turner, 1878; William Noah, 1881; John Green, 1884; J. Watson Courter, 1886; C. E. Wood, 1888; George Holland, 1893; A. B. Courter, 1913.

Richland Township.

Samuel Zink, 1879; J. W. Robinson, 1880; John E. Evans, 1884; Winfield S. Miner, 1886; C. M. Guild, 1888; I. M. Freeman, 1889; J. W. Nickerson, 1892; I. M. Freeman, 1893; J. W. Nickerson, 1897; I. M. Freeman, 1899; J. E. Guyman, 1900; I. M. Freeman, 1902; George Gorsuch, 1908; William T. Fisk, 1909; Charles O. Sherwood, 1911.

Greenville, First Ward.

R. R. Robinson, 1879; John Avery, 1880; George B. Gibbs, 1893; L. E. Clark, 1896; L. E. Clark, 1899; R. H. Stevens, 1901; L. E. Clark, 1902; James Newton, 1904; Charles B. Rarden, 1905; William Ockerman, 1907; Jacob M. Parkhurst, 1910; James Gracey, 1912.

Greenville, Second Ward.

William Backus, 1879; Henry Seaman, 1881; Jefferson Potter, 1882; George W. Stevens, 1884; A. W. Nichols, 1888; C. F. Morgan, 1889; A. W. Nichols, 1891; W. W. Slawson, 1892; A. W. Nichols, 1893; A. H. Tibbits, 1895; J. L. Van Wormer, 1896; A. H. Tibbetts, 1897; A. W. Nichols, 1898; Jesse L. Van Wormer, 1905; Nichols A. W. 1907; Alexander E. Savage, 1911; John W. Finch, 1914.

Greenville, Third Ward.

L. W. Sprague, 1879; C. C. Coates, 1886; L. W. Sprague, 1887; N. G. Nelson, 1889; G. E. C. Wilson, 1894; E. D. Bradley, 1896; Paul E. Willey, 1898; Ed. D. Bradley, 1899; E. A. Kemp, 1901; L. W. Sprague, 1902; David Long Necker, 1906; Smith A. Booth, 1908; James B. Taylor, 1911; Wells Sprague, 1912; James Callaghan, 1914.

Stanton, First Ward.

A. D. Forest Gardiner, 1881; H. H. Hinds, 1884; Asa Morse, 1885; Israel J. Lucas, 1886; Asa Morse, 1889; D. F. Tallman, 1891; I. J. Lucas, 1893; Asa Morse, 1895; I. J. Lucas, 1896; A. Biglow, 1897; I. J. Lucas, 1899; J. W. Dasef, 1900; B. E. Cadwell, 1901; E. L. Camburn, 1903; I. J. Lucas, 1904; S. P. Youngs, 1906; Wyllys R. Thomas, 1910; J. W. Nickerson, 1912.

Stanton, Second Ward.

William F. Turner, 1881; James D. Baker, 1886; Daniel Easterbrooks, 1888; Franck French, 1889; E. D. Childs, 1901; William H. Turner, 1895; Z. E. Briggs, 1896; William F. Turner, 1897; Z. E. Briggs, 1898; William Willett, 1899; C. W. French, 1901; J. S. Holcomb, 1902; R. Arthur Carothers, 1909; Jesse H. Holcomb, 1913; S. P. Youngs, 1914.

Stanton, Third Ward.

Elijah Eply, 1896; Robert C. Dales, 1897; N. E. Backman, 1899; Robert C. Dales, 1904; R. L. Bentley, 1906.

POPULATION.

The high water mark in the population of Montcalm county was reached in 1884 when the population of the county was 35,356. Before that date the population had risen continuously and steadily from 891 in 1850 to 2,056 in 1854; 3,068 in 1860; 5,629 in 1864; 13,629 in 1870; 20,815 in 1874; and 33,148 in 1880. Since 1884, there has been a slight decline in the population of the county from year to year. The population fell off from 35,356 in 1884 to 32,637 in 1890 and increased again to 34,158 in 1894. In 1900, it had fallen off to 32,754 and during the next four years increased slightly to 33,260. The population according to the census of 1910 was 32,069.

TAXES.

The taxable property in Montcalm county in 1911 as equalized by the state board of equalization was \$17,000,000 and this represented an increase of \$3,000,000 over the valuation of all taxable property as equalized by the

state board of equalization in 1906. The aggregate state tax paid by Montcalm county in 1912 was \$40,511.03.

The total state and county tax paid by each of the several townships of Montcalm county in 1915 is given in the *Edmore Times* as follows:

Township.	State Tax.	County Tax.
Belvidere -----	\$ 2,295.14	\$ 2,151.71
Bloomer -----	6,243.06	5,852.81
Bushnell -----	3,552.74	3,330.59
Cato -----	4,524.86	4,242.03
Crystal -----	3,471.64	3,254.66
Day -----	3,478.86	3,261.42
Douglass -----	2,295.14	2,151.71
Eureka -----	2,826.34	2,649.70
Evergreen -----	2,075.45	1,945.75
Fairplain -----	3,082.10	2,889.47
Ferris -----	2,264.65	2,123.12
Home -----	3,442.79	3,227.61
Maple Valley -----	4,019.24	3,768.02
Montcalm -----	3,311.63	3,104.66
Pierson -----	2,688.62	2,520.60
Pine -----	2,134.47	2,001.09
Reynolds -----	2,154.80	2,020.15
Richland -----	1,803.20	1,690.62
Sidney -----	3,049.31	2,858.74
Winfield -----	2,655.83	2,489.86
Greenville -----	8,944.95	8,385.79
Stanton -----	1,327.81	1,244.89
Total -----	\$71,642.71	\$67,165.00

CHAPTER XXXIV.

INDUSTRIES OF MONTCALM COUNTY.

Among the larger industrial enterprises of Montcalm county are the Gibson Refrigerator Company, of Greenville; the Ranney Refrigerator Company, of Greenville; the R. J. Tower Iron Works, of Greenville; the W. R. Roach Company, of Edmore; the Moore Plow and Implement Company, of Greenville; the L. Barber Company, of Edmore; the Rockafellow Grain Company, of Carson City; Frank H. Miner's cheese factory at Carson City, and the various flour-mills of the county.

The Gibson Refrigerator Company, of Greenville, was organized on November 2, 1908, with the following men as officers: Frank S. Gibson, president; John Lewis, vice-president and general manager; John J. Foster, secretary; Cass T. Wright, treasurer. The directors included besides the officers, Walter C. Winchester, of Grand Rapids; Otis A. Felger, of Grand Rapids, and William C. Grobhisser, of Sturgis. The present officers and directors are the same as the original ones except that Charles J. Gibson has replaced John J. Foster as secretary. The Gibson Refrigerator Company is capitalized at \$100,000 and does an annual business of more than one-half million dollars. The refrigerator manufactured is strictly a high-grade article and has met with such genuine approval that it has been necessary constantly to increase the output of the plant.

The Gibson Refrigerator Company has two of the largest warehouses for the storage of refrigerators in the world. Besides its large domestic business, it has an exceptionally good export business, and has introduced refrigerators into many foreign countries where refrigerators were theretofore unheard of.

The Ranney Refrigerator Company is the largest exclusive manufacturer of refrigerators in the United States. It was incorporated on October 5, 1892, with a capital of \$35,000, by F. E. Ranney, C. T. Ranney, F. A. Lamb, R. F. Sprague, W. D. Johnson, C. W. Johnson, C. Jesse Church, Cass T. Wright, Eugene Rutan, Charles F. Morgan, James Gault, T. J. Phillips, W. A. Hall, William W. Slawson and D. K. Beach. The present officers are F. E. Ranney, president; C. T. Ranney, vice-president; John Lewis,

secretary; W. S. Cutler, assistant secretary and W. D. Johnson, treasurer. Besides the factory at Greenville, the company also operates a plant at Belding. The Greenville plant covers something more than 150,000 square feet of floor space and is lighted from a plant owned by the company. The annual sales of the company now amount to nearly a million dollars. In addition to their factory proper, the company operates its own saw-mills and carries in stock a large amount of lumber at all times. Besides all this, the company owns a great many private cars in which the output is shipped to distant points. The company manufactures several different lines of refrigerators and considerably more than one hundred styles. The company maintains branch offices at New York City, Springfield, Massachusetts, and Chicago, Illinois.

Another large industry at Greenville is the Moore Plow and Implement Company, which has just purchased the entire plow repair business of the Toledo Plow Company, of Toledo, Ohio. The latter company has been in business for more than forty years and has been the sole manufacturer of Burch plows. The Moore Plow and Implement Company intends to take up immediately the manufacture of the celebrated Burch plow and when the Toledo stock is exhausted, a Burch plow of the Moore quality will be furnished to the trade. The entire stock of the Toledo plant will be brought to Greenville. The Moore Company manufactures Moore's patent self-sharpening plow point and sells it over a guarantee to wear as long as two common points. The company is perhaps the largest manufacturer in the country of repairs for standard plows.

The plant now known as the R. J. Tower Iron Works was first owned by the Tower family in the year 1875, having been purchased in December of that year by Samuel Tower, an old foundryman—the father of the present owner. The plant was operated by Samuel Tower two or three years when the late I. L. Tower, eldest son of Samuel, became interested in the business, the firm then being known as Samuel Tower & Son. This firm continued the business until February 1, 1880, when R. J. Tower, the present owner, became of age. Thereafter, until October 1, 1882, the two brothers operated the plant under the firm name of Tower Brothers. On October 1, 1882, R. J. Tower, then twenty-three years of age, took over the business which has since been known as the R. J. Tower Iron Works, individually owned by R. J. Tower. Until 1889, repairing of the then numerous saw and shingle mills was the principal business of the plant. In the year last mentioned, E. J. Gordon invented and patented what is now known the world over as the "Gordon Hollow Blast Grate," an apparatus used

under steam boilers to force the fire and create steam in greater quantity and thus enable the mill or factory to accomplish much more work without enlarging its plant. The manufacture of these "Blast Grate Outfits"—as they are called—constituted almost the entire business of the R. J. Tower Iron Works, until 1896 when these shops began the manufacture of the "Tower" line of edgers and trimmers. These machines go to make up a part of the outfit of a large proportion of the saw-mills of the United States, Old Mexico, and many other foreign countries, and are sold exclusively through the agency of the Gordon Hollow Blast Grate Company of Greenville, Michigan. The R. J. Tower Iron Works began in June, 1915, to build auto trucks, having at this time, December 1, 1915, just finished its first "Tower" truck. While this firm does not expect to do a business so immense as to crush all opposition, it is the intention that the "Tower" truck shall not disgrace its name.

The R. J. Tower Milling Company is an outgrowth of the purchase by R. J. Tower of the Middleton Mills and water power. During the winter of 1907-1908, while the big Middleton mill was being torn down, the smaller mill on the east side of Lafayette street was being built over into a modern flour mill of smaller capacity than that of the big mill. There being no longer wheat enough to mill profitably in such large quantities as the larger mill required. In the fall of 1908, the smaller mill was completed, and has since been building up a business that is adding its share to the prosperity of Montcalm county. This plant is individually owned by R. J. Tower, and managed by Ferrie H. Hall, who is always on deck and wide awake to the interest of his patrons and watchful of quick service and quality of output. The mill has a storage elevator of 10,000 bushels capacity and is able to take care of all grain tributary to Greenville. The principal output is the now well-known and unexcelled "Favorite" flour which is sold over Montcalm, Kent and Ionia counties and in Chicago. The R. J. Tower Milling Company not only sells flour, feed and other milled products in Montcalm county and Greenville, but manufactures these things at home, thus helping to build up the home community.

The R. J. Tower Electric Company is the outgrowth of the purchase by R. J. Tower, in September, 1907, of the E. Middleton & Sons Water Power and Flouring Mills. During the winter of 1907-1908, the big six-story flour mill so long operated by E. Middleton & Sons, was torn down, the foundation being used for the present power house. In February, 1908, a contract was made with the city of Greenville for the lighting of the city, and a franchise was secured and the R. J. Tower Electric Company was

ready to do business by the fall of 1908. During the spring and summer of 1914, the power house was enlarged, additional water wheels installed, new penstock and flume built, and an entire new dam constructed. Dam, penstock and flume are of the best concrete and steel construction and as solid as the pyramids. Until November 17, 1914, R. J. Tower had been sole owner of this plant. On that date an interest was sold to his nephew, Samuel L. Tower, who had been manager of the business since the beginning, and to whom much of the credit for the development of this business is due. For continuous and reliable service this plant has an enviable record. In connection with the water power there is a steam plant to tide the current demand over the "peak" as it is called, or point of greatest current consumption. It is a foregone conclusion that the R. J. Tower Electric Company will keep up to date, incorporating in its business and plant the wonderful inventions and improvements as fast as they are proven worth while.

The Greenville Floral Company was incorporated on July 17, 1903, with a capital of \$4,500, by John H. Serviss, William W. Mulick, Edward G. Mulick and Rufus F. Sprague. The Mulicks were residents of Grand Rapids. This company is still in existence.

The Z. C. Bohrer Company, of Greenville, organized for the purpose of carrying on a general mercantile business was incorporated on June 20, 1912, with a capital of \$15,000, by Zene C. Bohrer, Edith E. Bohrer and Hugh B. Streck. It now enjoys a good business.

The Greenville Lumber Company was incorporated on February 3, 1912, with a capital of \$10,000, by Carroll F. Sweet, John W. Ferdon and Carl A. Strand. On February 28, 1913, this company increased its capital stock to \$15,000. This company enjoys a large patronage.

The Greenville Fixture Company, incorporated on February 14, 1914, with a capital of \$6,000, for the manufacture of store fixtures, was organized by Fred E. Ranney, Charles H. Wells, Duncan K. Black and George E. Bower. It is a part of the operations of the Ranney Refrigerator Company.

Jacobson Brothers, wholesale and retail dealers in clothing and merchandise, of Greenville, was incorporated on August 3, 1909, with a capital of \$100,000. The original stockholders were Henry S., Joseph and Celia Jacobson, trustees. This is one of the largest department stores in this part of Michigan.

The Gordon Hollow Blast Company was incorporated on March 14, 1890, for the purpose of manufacturing and selling hollow blast grates.

for which the organizers held patents. The capital stock of the company was \$24,000, and the principal place of business at Greenville. The sole organizers and stockholders were Elonzo J. Gordon, Charles L. Hecox and Rufus S. Sprague. The charter of this company was amended June 26, 1895, to permit the manufacture of mill appliances, agricultural machinery, etc. It is now the selling agency for the R. J. Tower Iron Works.

The Greenville Implement Company manufactures a superior line of agricultural implements and is one of the old and established enterprises of the city. The business has been established nearly thirty-five years and the annual output has grown rapidly in recent years. The company owns the patents of the Three Rivers Plow Company, and these patents cover a line of agricultural implements that have few equals and no superiors in this part of the country.

The present Greenville Board of Trade was incorporated on February 18, 1907, and had for its purpose the advancement of the commercial interests of the city of Greenville. Its directors for the first year were Fred E. Ranney, Delmar H. Moore, Earl B. Slawson, W. J. Kingsbury, Henry Jacobson, Paul Van Deine, H. M. Grosvenor, T. E. Johnson, George C. Bower, Percy D. Edsall, Ray S. Cowin, Paul Smith, J. B. Smith, Harry H. Fowler and W. H. Browne.

The Bradley Cigar Company, of Greenville, was incorporated on May 1, 1894, with a capital of \$5,000, for the purpose of manufacturing and selling cigars, cigarettes, cheroots and tobacco, and was organized by William H. Bradley, Lincoln W. Hyde and Absalom Magee. It went out of business many years ago. Mr. Bradley now operates a wholesale grocery at Greenville.

The Continental Starch Company, incorporated on December 28, 1900, for the manufacture of starch at Greenville and with a capital of \$15,000, was organized by Charles W. Gale, Henry Hamper, Charles M. Hamper, Willoughby Matlock, J. C. Van Camp and Robert Gemmell. Now extinct.

The Greenville Cheese Company, organized by a large number of Greenville citizens with a capital of \$1,500, was incorporated on April 17, 1906. It failed in business after a few years.

The Greenville Manufacturers Company, Ltd., organized by Charles O. Skinner, Frank S. Gibson, William D. Johnson, Charles H. Gibson and William H. Browne for the purpose of manufacturing furniture products, and with a capital of \$10,000, was incorporated April 17, 1906. It failed in business shortly afterward.

The Canada Mills Company, of Greenville, organized for the purpose

of manufacturing clothing, was incorporated on August 10, 1914, with a capital of \$600,000, by Francis O. Linquist, George C. Linquist and Naboth E. Linquist. This company has become a very large mail-order house, but is now about to move the business to Grand Rapids. A previous incorporation of the company, dated January 18, 1912, gives the original capital as \$50,000. Francis O. Linquist represented the eleventh Congressional district in Congress for one term, having been elected in 1912.

The Greenville Machinery and Manufacturing Company, organized with a capital of \$10,000, was incorporated on October 24, 1907, by Samuel L. Tower, Paul Van Deinse and Byron C. Tower.

The Greenville Wholesale Baking Company was incorporated on May 2, 1913, with a capital of \$1,000, by Maggie F. Carlin, James Asher and David C. Carlin, but the company later failed.

The Skinner & Steenman Company, of Greenville, organized for the purpose of manufacturing sideboards, buffets, etc., was incorporated on January 23, 1904, with a capital of \$75,000, by Charles H. Gibson, Ray J. Tower, Ray S. Cowin, W. Clair Johnson, William H. Browne, Rufus F. Sprague, F. E. Ranney, D. K. Black, Frank S. Gibson, W. B. Johnson, Cass T. Wright, T. I. Phelps, David Jacobson, John J. Foster, S. L. Tower, E. Rutan, Paul Van Deinse, Ernest A. Kemp, Julius A. Henkel, Henry Steenman, Charles O. Skinner and Charles T. Ranney. The Skinner & Steenman Company failed in business.

The Stanwood Manufacturing Company was incorporated on July 8, 1892, for the purpose of manufacturing mantles, furniture, etc. Its capital was \$25,000 and its place of business, Greenville. The organizers were LeRoy C. Moore, Alfred C. Phelps and John D. Grow. It is now extinct.

The Inter-State Watch Company, of Greenville, was incorporated on May 14, 1907, for dealing in watches and other merchandise. Its incorporators were William H. Browne, George C. Bower and J. B. Smith. The capital was \$3,000.

The Trade Service Company, of Greenville, organized on October 7, 1911, for the purpose of conducting a general advertising business, was incorporated with a capital of \$5,000 by Robert E. Fowler, Joseph J. Jacobson and Henry S. Jacobson.

One of the earliest commercial organizations in Greenville was the Greenville Business Men's Association, incorporated on December 29, 1887, with an executive committee consisting of L. W. Sprague, E. J. Clark, J. Netzorg, J. L. Van Wormer and A. C. Satterlee, of whom L. W. Sprague was president, and E. J. Clark the first secretary.

The Greenville Potato Starch Company was incorporated on February 27, 1890, with a capital of \$25,000, for the purpose of manufacturing and selling potato starch and its products and the buying and selling of potatoes. The incorporators of this company, comprising a long list of men, lived principally at Greenville. This company failed in business after a few years. Until it burned, the building was occupied by the Rainey Refrigerator Company.

The Greenville Barrel Company was incorporated on May 13, 1884, with a capital of \$25,000, for the manufacture of barrels, tubs and pails. The incorporators were Northrup & Suteer, Charles C. Ellsworth, E. H. Leaning, George C. Smith, Francis M. Hicox, Stephen R. Steven, George W. Crosby, James W. Belknap and John E. Oliver. This company has long been extinct.

The John J. Foster Lumber Company was incorporated on December 18, 1896, for the manufacture of lumber, lath and shingles at Greenville. Its original capital was \$75,000, and its incorporators were M. B. Conover, M. H. Foster, James Towle and John J. Foster. This corporation no longer does business in Montcalm county.

The John J. Foster Gas Works, of Greenville, at a meeting of its stockholders held on October 4, 1902, increased its capital stock to \$50,000, held at the time by John J. Foster, Minerva H. Foster, Mrs. Katherine M. Crawford, J. A. Foster and John H. Passage.

One of the oldest enterprises of Stanton is the Stanton Hardware Company which was established on November 21, 1876, as the John W. S. Pierson Company. This company was incorporated on February 1, 1891, with a capital of \$10,000 for the purpose of carrying on a general mercantile business. On March 7, 1911, the name of the firm was changed to the Stebbins-Gaffield Company and on January 8, 1913, to the Stanton Hardware Company. On November 21, 1876, John W. S. Pierson and his brother, Philip T. H. Pierson, opened a small hardware store in the Morrison building at lower East Main street. In 1877, the business was moved to 108 West Main street. Here the business was carried on until the great fire of October 12, 1880, when the store and nearly all its contents were reduced to ashes. The firm occupied temporary quarters until the Paine building was erected on the old site and occupied on March 1, 1881. The fires of 1884 and 1885 caused various changes in locations, and in 1885 plans were made and the present building occupied by the Stanton Hardware Company erected. On Friday, January 22, the rebuilding of Stanton was

celebrated by a reception given by the John W. S. Pierson Company in the new Pierson building. On Saturday, March 13, 1886, the new store was opened for business purposes. In 1894, the Ironclad building was erected at the corner of Main and Lincoln streets. The silver anniversary of the firm was celebrated on November 21, 1901, and on November 21, 1916, the firm will celebrate its fortieth anniversary. In 1908, John W. S. Pierson retired from the active management of the firm, selling a controlling interest in the business to Elmer S. Stebbins and Charles L. Meach, the former of whom had been connected with the establishment since 1887. When the name of the firm was changed to the Stebbins-Gaffield Company, on March 7, 1911, Mr. Pierson formed the John W. S. Pierson Company, a co-partnership with John W. S. Pierson, president; Philip T. H. Pierson, vice-president, and Levi W. Hunsicker, secretary. This company was organized to deal in investment securities and has its office up-stairs in the Pierson building. Mr. Pierson is now the vice-president of the Stanton Hardware Company, the successor of the Stebbins-Gaffield Company.

The Stanton Lumber and Fuel Company was incorporated on April 6, 1909, with a capital of \$5,000, by William M. Thomas, Wyllys R. Thomas and Ormand A. Thomas. A little later the organizers sold out to Dr. R. L. Bentley, who in turn disposed of the property, in March, 1916, to the Westfield & Fall River Lumber Company, which now operates it.

The Stanton Hotel Company, organized with a capital of \$10,000, July 13, 1909, for the purpose of owning and operating a hotel in Stanton, was incorporated by Morris W. Stevenson (now president), Charles L. Meach, E. D. Straight, William H. Lamphierd, Mortimer H. Bachman, George C. Prevette, F. M. Strouse, Dr. Roy L. Bentley, Norman T. Kirk, Norman E. Bachman, George Edward Dakin, Lucian C. Palmer, Charles H. Carothers, O. E. Buchanning, L. C. Halstead, Addison D. Newman, George Holland, Charles W. French (now treasurer), Alphonsus E. Ward, Thomas D. Dow, Thomas S. Earle, Benson L. Gaffield, Oscar B. Filkins, Newton W. Newhouse, Byron L. Finch, F. A. Strouse and Thomas Fitzsimmons. This company is the present owner of the Montcalm Hotel at Stanton, operated under lease by John W. Campbell.

The Cadwell Shingle Company was incorporated on January 3, 1893, for the purpose of manufacturing shingles. Its capital stock was \$5,000, its place of business, Stanton, and its incorporators Ben E. Cadwell, Fred E. Moffatt and Gideon A. Hendrick. This company disbanded after about two years.

The Pease-Robinson & Jackson Company, incorporated on December

30, 1881, was organized for the purpose of buying and selling lumber, lath and shingles, with a capital of \$30,000, by Theodore J. Pease, William W. Robinson and Thomas Jackson, the first named of Thompsonville, Connecticut, the second of Stanton and the third of McBride. It is long since extinct.

The Eureka Sharpener Company was incorporated on April 10, 1895, with its principal office at Stanton, and with a capital of \$25,000, for the purpose of manufacturing lawn mower sharpeners. Its incorporators were H. H. Howe, R. L. Bentley, M. D. and N. W. Percival. This company was active for only a year or two.

The Stanton Lumber Company was incorporated on January 18, 1879, with a capital of \$30,000, by Julius Housman, of Grand Rapids; Humphrey R. Wagar, of Muir, and Laman B. Townsend, of Ionia. The principal office of the company was at Colby Station. The Stanton Lumber Company was active for only two or three years.

The Stanton Iron and Engine Company, with a capital of \$21,000, was incorporated on October 31, 1883, for the purpose of operating a foundry and machine shop. The incorporators were William Miner, Frederick J. Miner and Isaac N. Conrad. It failed after six or eight years.

The Stanton Milling Company was incorporated by William F. Turner, Clarence W. Chapin, for the firm of Webber & Chapin; George F. Beardsley, William E. Keyes, Edwin K. Wood and M. A. Reynolds, for the purpose of operating a flour and feed mill and with a capital of \$35,000. The incorporation papers were dated June 20, 1887. This company has been extinct for many years. Edwin K. Wood is now a resident of California and is extensively interested in lumber and in a boat line. M. A. Reynolds is engaged in the insurance business in Chicago. William F. Turner died about ten years ago.

From papers filed on July 21, 1886, it appears that the name of the Torrent & Armes Lumber Company was changed to that of the Cohasset Lumber Company.

The Stanton Cement Stone Company was incorporated on April 16, 1904, for making cement blocks. Its original capital was \$2,500, and its incorporators were John W. S. Pierson, J. F. Gage, E. S. Stebbins, S. Perry Youngs, George C. Prevette, T. S. Earle, Delos A. Towle, D. E. Finch and Frank A. Miller. This company was dissolved on July 20, 1910.

The E. D. Hawley Company, of Stanton, was incorporated on April 6, 1900, to do a general mercantile and harness business. Its capital stock was \$20,000, and its incorporators were Elvis D. Hawley, Clara P. Hawley,

Frank E. Joy, Otto Swanton, Frank Hansen, Henry B. Hawley, S. Ada Hawley and Frederick Neff. This venture was continued until after the death of its president and organizer, E. D. Hawley, when it was finally abandoned and the stock, after many reductions, was sold to the present owners, Smith Brothers.

The Rockafellow Grain Company, of Carson City, is the successor of the Carson City Elevator Company which was incorporated on May 2, 1887, for the purpose of dealing in grain, fruits, vegetables, wool, lime, coal and salt. The original capital of \$5,000 was subscribed by E. Middleton, Charles H. Morse, George A. Thayer, M. J. Miner, C. W. Middleton, L. L. Trask, J. C. West, S. W. Webber, C. J. Rumsey, Patrick M. Fox and A. W. Middleton. C. M. Carran of Detroit is now president; F. T. Caughey is vice-president and L. W. Murray is secretary-treasurer and manager of the Rockafellow Grain Company. The company also owns elevators at Middleton, Vickeryville and Ashley which are managed from the home office. It has grown with the requirements of the trade and has the latest equipment for handling all products tributary to its markets. The company has installed a modern drier for handling wet grain and beans, which is a necessity in order to meet weather conditions of different years. Besides grain, the company deals in lumber, hay, wool, lime, building material and coal.

The Carson City electric light plant is owned and operated by the Rockafellow Grain Company. This business was organized as the Carson City Electric Light and Power Company and was incorporated on July 6, 1892, with a capital of \$10,000. The following gentlemen were directors of the parent company: Edward C. Walker, John W. Hallett, Francis A. Rockafellow, William A. Palmer and E. C. Cummings.

The Carson City cheese factory which was established about twenty-five years ago by Henry Fitzpatrick was sold eight years ago to Frank H. Miner who now operates it. The product consists of from 100,000 to 120,000 pounds annually of soft Michigan cheese. Five men are employed every day in the week for eight months in the year and four days in the week for four months in the year. The industry was first established as a butter factory and operated as such for seven years after which butter making was abandoned. The plant is valued at about \$3,500.

The Carson City Business Men's Association was incorporated on December 3, 1887, with an executive committee consisting of F. A. Rockafellow, C. O. Trask, C. A. Culver, A. Y. Sessions and Dr. J. P. Taylor, for the purpose of securing "the co-operation of merchants and other classes of business men and promoting the social, moral and business interests of its

members." Dr. J. P. Taylor is believed to be the only one of the incorporators now living in Montcalm county. Messrs. Rockafellow and Sessions are deceased. Ever since 1887, however, Carson City has maintained an organization similar to the Business Men's Association.

The F. A. Rockafellow Mercantile Company, of Carson City, was incorporated on May 1, 1888, for the purpose of carrying on a general mercantile business. The incorporators were F. A. Rockafellow, Charles R. Culver, Joseph E. Davis, E. C. Cummings and Sheldon H. Caswell. The capital stock was \$40,000. This company was later reorganized but disbanded six or eight years ago when the business was taken over by Chester Culver, son of Charles R. Culver.

The Collapsible Steel Form Company, of Carson City, organized for the purpose of manufacturing collapsible steel forms, was incorporated on February 1, 1910, with a capital of \$30,000, by William C. Fife, Stanley R. Coleman, William W. Kenyon and Kirke G. Bumpers. This company failed to accomplish anything of consequence and is now extinct.

The firm of Meach & White, Inc., doing a general mercantile business at Lakeview, was incorporated on March 12, 1915, with a capital of \$20,000, by Charles L. Meach, Claude E. White, Frank E. Moore, Ella S. Meach, Mary E. White and William Meach. This firm does a thriving business.

The Sol and Louis Gittleman Company was incorporated on February 26, 1914, for the purpose of engaging in the general mercantile business at Lakeview and with a capital of \$15,000. The incorporators were Sol, Flora and Louis Gittleman. This corporation is now one of the largest mercantile establishments of the county. The same men also operate a store at Carson City.

The Kirtland Mercantile Company, of Lakeview, was incorporated on July 30, 1907, with a capital of \$10,000, by Horace L., W. Dean and Addison L. Kirtland. This business was later sold to and is now being operated by V. T. Dickerson.

The Stebbins Manufacturing Company, of Lakeview, formed for the purpose of manufacturing furniture and woodenware, was incorporated on March 24, 1900, with a capital of \$50,000, by Ensign B. Stebbins, James Edgar, John J. Bale, Lars P. Sorenson, Chester H. Stebbins, Leroy Stebbins, George C. Youngman, F. R. Blanchard, Harley Cogswell, Charles E. Butler, Charles M. Northrup, Lewis L. Bissell, Leonard Rossman, Harry H. Sorenson, Earl French, Ida French, Chester Straight, Eleanor Bush, James Fontaine, Earl Currier and Glenn Rossman. The property was

removed from the county, and E. B. Stebbins is now engaged in the banking business at Carson City.

The Lakeview Creamery and Cold Storage Company was incorporated on March 12, 1887, for the purpose of dealing in eggs and dairy products, pork and the sale of ice. Its original capital was \$6,500, and its incorporators were Charles M. Northrup, Albert S. French, Volney J. Martin, Charles F. French, Lars Peter Sorensen, Thomas F. Rogers, Charles Godbold, Thomas R. Welsh, Truman R. French and Cassius L. Hall. This company has been extinct for many years.

The L. Barber & Company, of Edmore, which was incorporated on August 13, 1912, with a capital stock of \$15,000, by H. P. Albaugh, J. W. Pfeiffer, S. D. Ketchum, J. H. Gibbs, Clyde L. Clear, J. F. Snyder, L. Barber and H. G. Cronkhite, has an annual output of 600,000 pounds of butter, 500,000 pounds of poultry and 20,000 cases of eggs. The original officers were H. P. Albaugh, president; J. W. Pfeiffer, vice-president; S. D. Ketchum, secretary, and L. Barber, treasurer and manager. The present officers are the same, except that H. G. Cronkhite has replaced Mr. Barber as treasurer. The firm deals in poultry, butter and eggs. Cream is purchased of farmers and manufactured into butter. As a matter of fact, Edmore has had a creamery for the past twenty or twenty-five years. As long ago as December 1, 1892, the Edmore Creamery Association was incorporated with a capital of \$6,000, by James Slemmons, J. H. Gibbs, Purple McDonald, Hope Brothers, W. G. Wisner, A. J. Briggs, Hiram Sackett and Frank Dreese.

The Edmore Mercantile Company was incorporated on September 11, 1901, with a capital of \$10,000, by Henry A. Maley, Jacob F. Snyder and George A. Snyder. Although the organizers of this company are now deceased, the company is still in existence.

The Edmore Canning Company, with a capital of \$10,000, was incorporated on March 10, 1903, by Jacob F. Snyder, Henry A. Maley, John W. Pfeiffer, S. Knapp, J. H. Gibbs, R. M. Miller, Anders Geraldson, J. K. Train, C. E. Groves, E. A. Joslin, Lyman S. Crotser, H. H. Dean, Alfred E. Curtis, J. R. Warren, J. S. Burgess, A. J. Briggs, A. L. Stevens, A. F. Skarritt, John Sack, W. A. Courtwright, R. O. Smith, L. D. Curtis, H. P. Beebe and A. N. Demoray. This company was dissolved after foreclosure, March 20, 1907, and is now the N. R. Roach Company.

The Home Building Association, of Edmore, was incorporated on August 14, 1883, for the purpose of building an opera house at Edmore. It had a capital of \$10,000 and was organized by Richard Brown, William

H. Gardner, R. S. Robson, H. Blair, A. H. Farnum, George S. Hyde, Willard A. Coon, Lucius H. Gibbs, William D. Stevens, E. S. Wagar, Nicholas Nolan, James Slemores, C. E. Taylor, H. K. Sumner, W. E. Kingsbury, H. C. Dutton, L. A. Roller, L. T. Wilmarth, George M. Smith, D. B. Morhead and E. B. Moore. Now extinct.

The Vestaburg Butter Company was incorporated on September 26, 1906, with a capital of \$1,500, by C. M. Guild, George F. Nickerson, C. H. Alward, R. Morey, Alida Miller and eighteen others.

The Vestaburg Elevator Company was incorporated on June 1, 1909, with a capital of \$10,000, by William H. Wallace, William J. Orr, George Billrough and Edmund C. Cramer.

The Vestaburg Creamery Company was incorporated on June 1, 1905, with a capital of \$5,000, by J. Gates, G. E. Gorsuch, B. L. Ward, Fred Freeman and J. F. Thurlby.

The Citizens' Light Company, of Belding, was incorporated in Montcalm county on February 23, 1899, with a capital of \$25,000, by Maurice A. Reed, Frank R. Chase and William J. Wilson.

The Crystal Telephone Company, of Crystal, was incorporated on February 16, 1909, by John P. Spencer, George H. Ingersol, George W. Felton, R. L. Ruedger, J. G. DeYoe, C. M. Frank and John B. Davenport.

The Crystal Butter Separator and Cheese Factory was incorporated on March 18, 1893, with a capital of \$10,000, by A. J. Holcomb, J. L. Shinebarger, W. H. Parr, William S. North, Abram Mench, J. M. Binkley, C. Case, J. M. Beck, J. N. Gwin, C. S. Warthout, Martin Barger, S. Starkey, Charles Lute, George Braman, Edward Tishue, George Binkley, John P. Spencer, John Edwards, Seymour Case, Erastus Barger, Ira C. Town, H. J. Beach, Cornelius D. Young, D. R. Shafer and Merton E. Town. It has been out of business for many years.

The Trufant Produce Company, Ltd., was organized on November 15, 1910, for the general mercantile business, with a capital of \$5,000, and with Fred Kelly, chairman; Franklin C. Rasmussen, secretary; H. P. Hansen, treasurer, and Henry Craig and Carl Weinrich as additional directors for the first year.

The Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company, for the purpose of manufacturing butter and cheese at Trufant, was incorporated on February 11, 1893 by a large number of citizens living in Trufant and vicinity, and with a capital of \$3,570, which was increased November 20, 1896, to \$5,000. This company was not a financial success and went out of business at least twelve years ago.

The Sheridan Elevator Company was incorporated on November 30, 1906, with a capital of \$10,000, by Clifton H. Clement, Charles W. French, Patrick J. Devine and Fred A. Pakes. This business was subsequently abandoned and the property destroyed by fire.

The Sheridan Creamery Company was incorporated on December 7, 1895, with a capital of \$4,385.62, by A. B. Brown, Dan T. Fargo, C. F. Messmore, Simon Anderson, Asa Sinclair, A. H. Greenhoe, C. H. Clement, A. N. Russell, R. B. Gleason, N. Cartesen, Niels Christensen, G. W. Stanton, W. B. Davis, A. J. Hemingway, John W. Prestel, George Holland, James Jaynes, J. Watson Courter, C. A. Rass, Joseph Houchett, Tim Hargan, Louis Edmonds, D. B. Sanders & Company, Cary Nichols, E. H. Soule and Abraham Miller. The original incorporators sold out and the property was later destroyed by fire.

The Pierson Creamery Company, incorporated on February 25, 1903, with a capital of \$4,000, was organized by S. B. Newcomb, J. V. Crandall, G. M. Purson, Edward Studon, W. H. Petrie, E. D. Jaqua, S. E. Bush, Robert Neve, C. E. Petrie, David Herren, Charles H. Benson, Clyde S. Comstock, O. A. Purson, A. S. McNaughton, John Wright, Byron H. Weed and Eugene Jones. It failed in business.

The Wellman Washer Company, of Cedar Lake, was incorporated on February 10, 1896, for the manufacture and sale of the Wellman washer. The original capital was \$5,000, and the incorporators were Delmer E. Wellman, Hiram C. Goodrich, Oliver E. Mosher and Justus G. Lamson. Now extinct.

The Isham-Miller Company, incorporated with a capital of \$20,000, February 27, 1906, for the purpose of manufacturing "Isham-Miller" expanding iron road culverts, at Butternut, was organized by Frank E. Miller, William Isham and J. Frank Isham. It failed in business after a short time.

The Howard City Realty Company was incorporated on November 29, 1910, with a capital of \$4,100, by J. Claude Youdan, John A. Herold, Charles A. VanDenburg, Bert Crittenden, F. W. Patterson, Paul Ferrell, Fred Ashley, Walter J. Smith, William E. Carter, A. N. Shook, Fred M. O'Brien and Peter Hansen.

The Howard City Electric Light Company was incorporated on September 12, 1894, with a capital of \$10,000, by J. H. Andrews, N. W. Mather, W. H. Lovely, T. H. Lavery, H. D. Coburn, Fred Ashley, Lee Morgan, D. Farr, Alex Denton and B. J. Lowery.

The Howard City Board of Trade was incorporated on December 17, 1906, by Stephen C. Scott, Charles L. Sing, John C. Collins, John A. Herold, William H. Lovely, Sid V. Bullock and Hal M. Gibbs.

The Howard City Manufacturing Company was incorporated on December 3, 1887, for the purpose of manufacturing cutter bodies and doing a general manufacturing business, with a capital of \$10,000, by Norman W. Mather, Alexander Denton, John W. Lovely, John B. King, Charles A. VanDenburg, Austin Barber, Horace Menkee, Eva Barber, Stephen C. Scott, John C. Collins, Casper Schutt, James H. Kipp, Henry Henkel and Thomas C. Prant. This company failed in business after a few years.

The Sidney Produce Company was incorporated on November 18, 1911, with a capital of \$1,000, by Chris Johnson, William E. Drews, Peter Petersen, Julius Kroeger and Nels Lamb.

The Crystal Heights Association, incorporated on August 23, 1899, for the purpose of improving lands used for summer homes in Crystal township, included a long list of interested parties, organized for the sale of lots. This company went out of existence when its object was fulfilled.

The Millers Produce Company, of Miller, was incorporated on April 12, 1911, with a capital of \$1,000, by Luther R. Stone, Jens P. Hansen, Laurence A. Siple, Martin Sorensen and Lewis F. Mount.

The Amble Creamery Company was incorporated on September 3, 1903, with a capital of \$5,300, for the purpose of making creamery butter at Amble, by residents of Lakeview, Amble, Morley and Howard City. This company is still in operation and is a thriving enterprise operated by farmers of the community.

The Coral Concrete Culvert Manufacturing Company, of Coral, was incorporated on April 27, 1910, with a capital of \$4,000, by Stephen M. Dinsmore, Frank W. Bailey and William L. Morris. Messrs. Dinsmore and Bailey recently sold their interests to Mr. Morris who now operates it alone.

The Lower Black Lakes and Six Lakes Improvement Company was incorporated on May 11, 1878, for the purpose of improving the navigation of Black creek, in Mecosta and Montcalm counties, and of Six lakes, with a capital of \$10,000, and was organized by David Whitney, Jr., of Detroit; Charles Stinchfield and John P. Sims, of Saginaw; Henry A. Batchelder, of Bay City, and John W. Curtis, of Belvidere. Now extinct. It never accomplished anything.

The Swift Mining Company, formed for the purpose of mining iron, copper, gold, silver, mineral, coal and all other metals, with a capital of

\$25,000, was incorporated on May 20, 1895, by Richard Beech, Addie E. Turner, William F. Turner, George W. Sharp, James Sharp, John Blake, Thomas E. Evans, Edson H. Pickell, Harry Campbell, Laura E. Sharp and S. Perry Youngs. This company was organized to reopen some mines in Virginia, but the venture was not a success and soon was abandoned.

TELEPHONE LINES.

The Montcalm County Telephone Association was incorporated on November 11, 1896, with an authorized capital of \$5,000. On March 2, 1898, the capital was increased to \$30,000. Primarily this telephone system grew out of a private line. The directors at the time of incorporation were as follow: W. P. Gamber, president, Stanton; J. N. Crusoe, secretary and treasurer, Stanton; C. H. LaFlamboy, vice-president, McBride; L. C. Palmer, attorney, Stanton; C. G. Mason, Crystal; J. W. Robinson, Vestaburg, now of Alma; John W. S. Pierson, Stanton. The rapid growth of the lines leading to McBride (10), Edmore (60), Six Lakes (25), Lakeview (50), Wyman, Millbrook, Blanchard, Remus (40), Barryton, Weidman, Cedar Lake, Vestaburg, Riverdale, Elm Hall, Alma, Ferris Center, Mason's Corners, Crystal, Butternut, Carson City (50), Vickeryville, Sheridan (25), Fenwick, Greenville—connecting with the Citizens Telephone Company and also connecting with this same company at Lakeview—made it necessary to increase the capital to \$30,000. John Bale, of Lakeview; George S. Townsend, of Six Lakes; J. H. Gibbs, of Edmore, and Fred Messenger, of Stanton, became interested in the promotion of the company's lines, but at the time of consolidating with the Union Telephone Company the heaviest stockholders were W. P. Gamber, C. H. LaFlamboy and J. W. Robinson. The value of the lines at the time of consolidation was about \$12,000. The figures following each town were approximately the number of phones in these exchanges at the time of combining with the Union Telephone Company and the number of phones in the Stanton exchange at that time was about 130. Entrican and Fishville should also be added to the list of toll lines, with numerous farmer's lines about Stanton.

The Union Telephone Company, of Owosso, Michigan, succeeded to the business of the Montcalm County Telephone Association in February, 1900, and now has exchanges at Edmore, Lakeview, McBride, Stanton, Sheridan, Vestaburg and Six Lakes. The company has 240 subscribers at Edmore, 154 subscribers at Lakeview, 187 at McBride, 216 at Stanton, 46 at Sheridan, 81 at Vestaburg and 35 at Six Lakes. Besides these sub-

scribers, there are 350 subscribers at Edmore and Lakeview on connecting lines; 92 subscribers at Butternut of the Farmers' Exchange Telephone Company which exchange service with the Union Telephone Company; 185 subscribers at Vickeryville of the Farmers' Exchange Telephone Company which connect with the Union lines; 130 subscribers at Crystal, with which connections are made, the exchange being owned by the Crystal Telephone Company; 72 subscribers at Sheridan on connecting lines; 15 subscribers at Vestaburg on connecting lines, and 48 subscribers at Six Lakes on connecting lines. The Union Telephone Company also owns the exchange at Carson City, and has 291 subscribers at this exchange.

The Citizens Telephone Company, of Grand Rapids, operates exchanges in Montcalm county at Greenville, Coral and Trufant. At Greenville it has 488 local subscribers and 217 rural subscribers, a total of 705. At Coral there are 27 local subscribers and 40 rural subscribers, besides 30 switching subscribers, a total of 97. At Trufant there are 14 local subscribers, 107 switching subscribers, a total of 121. The Greenville exchange was purchased in 1903 from local business men who owned and operated the property under the name of the "Greenville Telephone Exchange." The Citizens Telephone Company also connects with locally-owned exchanges at Howard City and Amble.

As a matter of fact, there are a large number of locally-owned telephone lines and exchanges in Montcalm county, all of which are giving good service and prospering financially.

The Hinton Telephone Company, incorporated on February 11, 1909, with a capital of \$7,500, is really a Mescota county organization, but furnishes service to citizens of Montcalm county.

The Greenville-Harrison Telephone Company, of Greenville, was incorporated on February 25, 1895, with a capital of \$5,000, and the incorporation papers named Sylvester W. Higgins, Theodore I. Phelps and N. O. Griswold as directors for the first year. This company sold out to the Grand Rapids Union Telephone Company.

The Greenville Telephone Exchange was incorporated on January 10, 1898, with a capital of \$1,500, with Rufus F. Sprague, Duncan K. Black, T. I. Phelps, Edward J. Bowman, George R. Slawson, H. Harris and W. A. Mac Lean as directors for the first year.

The Farmers Exchange Telephone Company of Vickeryville was incorporated on November 25, 1904, with a capital of \$2,000, by Austin P. Culbertson, Marshall D. Sherd and Frank A. Stevens. The capital stock was

raised to \$12,000, January 3, 1907, and Austin P. Culbertson, Fred Sinclair, Eli Boyer, William E. McCarty and Marshall D. Sherd named as directors for the succeeding year.

The Pierson and Maple Valley Telephone Company was incorporated on March 15, 1910, with a capital of \$135, with George Schaub, John M. Brenner, Warren Filed and Fred W. Poepke as directors for the first year.

PRESENT INDUSTRIES.

Altogether there were in Montcalm county 135 concerns inspected by the Michigan State factory inspector in 1914, and which employed a total of 1,615 persons, of which 1,091 were males and 524 females. Those concerns employing the largest number of people in the county were the W. R. Roach Company, canners, of Edmore; the Gibson Refrigerator Company, the Ranney Refrigerator Company, the Greenville Implement Company and the Moore Plow and Implement Company, all of Greenville.

A complete list of all the industrial concerns of Montcalm county inspected by the state factory inspector in 1914, together with their location, the nature of their business, and the year the business was established is given herewith:

Name.	Location.	Nature of business.	Date of establishment.
Banton & Kerr	Butternut	Grain and beans	1906
Butternut Custom Mill	Butternut	Feed and crates	1913
Fitzpatrick, J. M.	Butternut	Cheese	1890
Carson City Gazette Co., The.....	Carson City.....	Printed matter.....	1911
Carson City Produce Co.	Carson City.....	Dairy products.....	1912
Carson City Steam Laundry	Carson City.....	Laundry	1904
Carson City Water Works.....	Carson City.....	Water	1885
Lyon & Daniel	Carson City.....	Flour	1902
McCrary & Jennings.....	Carson City.....	Meats	1899
Miner, F. H.	Carson City.....	Cheese	1907
Ralph, F.	Carson City.....	Auto Repairing.....	1905
Rockafellow Grain Co.	Carson City.....	Grain, etc.	1887
Smith & Shinabager.....	Carson City.....	Blacksmithing	1900
Waters, J. T.	Carson City.....	Repairing	1898
Chapple & Skeoch	Coral	Beans	1907
Coral News Co., The.....	Coral	Printed matter	1891

Name.	Location.	Nature of Business.	establishment.
Crystal Mail Co., The-----	Crystal-----	Printed matter-----	1898
Sanford, Otis A.-----	Crystal-----	Auto repairing-----	1911
Sanford, Otis A.-----	Crystal-----	Feed-----	1899
Barber, F. Co.-----	Edmore-----	Butter-----	1913
Curtis, A. E. & Co.-----	Edmore-----	Beans-----	1909
Edmore Times Co.-----	Edmore-----	Printed matter-----	1883
Edmore Water Works-----	Edmore-----	Water-----	1883
Gibbs, J. H. & Son-----	Edmore-----	Flour, etc.-----	1883
Jordan & Brower-----	Edmore-----	Auto repairing-----	1911
Roach, W. R. Co.-----	Edmore-----	Canned goods-----	1909
Sanitary Market, The-----	Edmore-----	Meats-----	1898
Belknap Lumber Co.-----	Greenville-----	Lumber-----	1913
Central Market-----	Greenville-----	Meats-----	1908
Chippewa Construction Co.-----	Greenville-----	Gas-----	1890
Chittick & Beck-----	Greenville-----	Blacksmithing-----	1909
Christianson, O. Woodworks-----	Greenville-----	Woodwork-----	1914
Christensen Glove Works-----	Greenville-----	Gloves-----	1904
Church, J. A.-----	Greenville-----	Lumber-----	1907
City Laundry-----	Greenville-----	Laundry-----	1902
Daily Call Co., The-----	Greenville-----	Printed matter-----	1879
Eureka Mills-----	Greenville-----	Flour and feed-----	1879
Gibson, C. H. Co.-----	Greenville-----	Produce-----	1898
Gibson Refrigerator Co.-----	Greenville-----	Refrigerators-----	1902
Green, L. J.-----	Greenville-----	Baked goods-----	1911
Greenville Bottling Works-----	Greenville-----	Soft drinks-----	1913
Greenville Creamery-----	Greenville-----	Dairy products-----	1911
Greenville Floral Co.-----	Greenville-----	Flowers-----	1903
Greenville Implement Co.-----	Greenville-----	Implements-----	1891
Greenville Independent Printing Co.-----	Greenville-----	Printed matter-----	1854
Greenville Lumber Co., Inc.-----	Greenville-----	Lumber-----	1910
Greenville Steam Laundry-----	Greenville-----	Laundry-----	1912
Greenville Waterworks-----	Greenville-----	Water-----	1887
Greenville Wholesale Baking Co.-----	Greenville-----	Baked goods-----	1913
Hansen & Lyman-----	Greenville-----	Harness-----	1913
Kemp's Auto Garage & Supply Co.-----	Greenville-----	Auto repairing-----	1912
Kemp, E. A. & Son-----	Greenville-----	Repairing-----	1914

Name.	Location.	Nature of Business.	Date of establishment.
Knapp, Thomas & Petersen	Greenville	Blacksmithing	1911
Kromah, Peter	Greenville	Repairing	1904
Martin, F. R. & Co.	Greenville	Lumber	1910
Matlock, W.	Greenville	Junk	1891
Montcalm Creamery Co.	Greenville	Dairy products	1912
Moore Plow & Implement Co.	Greenville	Farm implements	1901
Nelson, Frank	Greenville	Meats	1896
Noxon, B. M.	Greenville	Shoe repairing	1900
Prentice, W. H.	Greenville	Custom clothing	1910
Ranney Refrigerator Co.	Greenville	Refrigerators	1892
Ridley, J. T.	Greenville	Storage	1894
Shepherd's Shop	Greenville	Auto repairing	1913
Slawson, Earle B.	Greenville	Grain, etc.	1906
Tower, R. J. Iron Works, The	Greenville	Machinery	1865
Tower, R. J. Milling Co.	Greenville	Flour and feed	1907
Tower, R. J. Electric Co.	Greenville	Light	1908
Weeks, C. W. & Co.	Greenville	Monuments	1910
Wright Bros. & Co.	Greenville	Flour and feed	1881
Howard City Custom Mill	Howard City	Feed	1901
Howard City Elec. Lt. & Power Co.	Howard City	Light and power	1907
Howard City Garage	Howard City	Auto repairing	1912
Howard City Record Co., The	Howard City	Printed matter	1872
Howard City Waterworks	Howard City	Water	1890
O'Donald, A.	Howard City	Grain and beans	1873
Perry, Richard	Howard City	Meats	1876
Prout, J. H. & Co.	Howard City	Flour	1876
Williams, Ceylon	Howard City	Lumber	1903
Bale, John J.	Lakeview	Lumber	1874
Brown's Garage	Lakeview	Auto repairing	1908
Charlnéy, Will	Lakeview	Meats	1895
Hackett, E. K.	Lakeview	Wagons	1899
Hafey & Wandel	Lakeview	Auto repairing	1910
Lakeview Creamery	Lakeview	Dairy products	1911
Lakeview Enterprise Co., The	Lakeview	Printed matter	1879
Lakeview Elevator Co.	Lakeview	Grain, etc.	1907
Lakeview Milling Co.	Lakeview	Flour, etc.	1893

Name.	Location.	Nature of Business.	Date of establishment.
Lakeview Waterworks	Lakeview	Water	1898
Michigan Chair and Table Co.	Lakeview	Novelties	1913
Moore, F. E. Co., The	Lakeview	Premium goods	1902
Moss, Mrs. J. W.	Lakeview	Millinery	1899
Peterson, Peter	Lakeview	Meats	1901
Stewart, S. J.	Lakeview	Cider	
Wilson, Alice	Lakeview	Millinery	1907
Cadwell, B. E.	McBride	Grain	1890
Heinz, H. J.	McBride	Pickles	1903
McBride Creamery	McBride	Dairy products	1910
McBride Review Co.	McBride	Printed matter	1893
Harvey, U. L.	Pierson	Beans and grain	1913
Petrie, A. F. & Co.	Pierson	Beans and grain	1906
Alart & McGuire Co.	Sheridan	Pickles	1904
Eldridge, D. D.	Sheridan	Feed	1912
Kidder Bros.	Sheridan	Meats	1900
Rutherford, E. A.	Sheridan	Beans	1907
<i>Sheridan Advertiser</i>	Sheridan	Printed matter	1904
Sheridan Waterworks	Sheridan	Water	1906
Wykoff, F. M.	Sheridan	Beans	1906
Gaffield, J. W. & Sons	Six Lakes	Grain and feed	1890
Buckrell, John	Stanton	Smithing	1899
Cadwell, B. E.	Stanton	Beans	1893
Chase, David	Stanton	Meats	1907
Florin Washer Co., The	Stanton	Washing machine	1895
Improved Shuffle Board Co.	Stanton	Games	1902
Libby, McNeil & Libby	Stanton	Pickles	1909
Main Street Garage	Stanton	Auto repairing	1912
Stanton City Bakery	Stanton	Baked goods	1911
Stanton City Mills	Stanton	Flour	1898
Stanton Clipper-Herald Co.	Stanton	Printed matter	1867
Stanton Hardware Co.	Stanton	Sheet metal	1891
Stanton Waterworks	Stanton	Water	1883
Union Telephone Co.	Stanton	Telephone service	1907
Van Deboget, O. D. & Co.	Stanton	Grain	1911
Hansen, Oscar	Trufant	Cigars	1903

Name.	Location.	Nature of Business.	Date of establishment.
Hansen, Oscar	Trufant	Feed, etc.	1907
Larson, J. W.	Trufant	Meats	1909
Thompson Elevator	Trufant	Grain	1896
Alart & McGuire	Vestaburg	Pickles	1904
Hancock & Manley	Vestaburg	Crates	1913
Vestaburg Elevator Co.	Vestaburg	Beans	1909
Rockafellow Grain Co.	Vickeryville	Grain and beans	1901
Vickeryville Cheese Factory	Vickeryville	Cheese	1906

CHAPTER XXXV.

COURTS AND LAWYERS.

The state of Michigan was admitted to the Union by act of Congress approved January 26, 1837, and became the twenty-sixth state. The first constitution adopted after the Detroit convention of 1835 was rejected by Congress, but was subsequently accepted after the "Toledo war." Michigan continued under its first Constitution until 1850, when the second was drafted and adopted. In 1908, the third Constitution was adopted.

COUNTY COURTS.

In 1815 county courts were first established, to be presided over by one chief justice and two associate justices, who were appointed by the governor. They had exclusive jurisdiction over all claims exceeding a justice's jurisdiction and not exceeding one thousand dollars, but no jurisdiction in ejectment. Until 1818 final appeal lay to the county court from justices' courts. Chancery jurisdiction was then given them and provision was made for the appointment of masters in chancery. When the act to establish county courts was passed, Wayne county was the only one organized, and the district of Michilimackinac was excepted from the provisions of the act.

After the establishment of circuit courts, the county courts began to decline. Much of their jurisdiction was gradually transferred to the circuit courts and in 1833 they were abolished altogether in the organized counties east of Lake Michigan, except Wayne, by the same act which established the old circuit courts of the territory. In Wayne county, and in the western counties of the territory, the county court system was continued until Michigan became a state.

When the revised statutes of 1846 were under consideration, the Legislature rejected the original chapter 92, which provided for a continuance of the district courts of the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw and Jackson, and, in lieu thereof, inserted provisions for county courts. In their new form they were presided over by two judges, elected for a term of four years, and called, respectively, "county judge" and "second judge."

This court had original and exclusive jurisdiction of all claims above a justice's jurisdiction and under five hundred dollars, excepting actions of ejectment and proceedings in probate cases. It also had appellate jurisdiction over justices' courts. No appeal was allowed in any case determined by a county court, but cases might be removed to the circuit court by certiorari. These courts were abolished by the adoption of the constitution of 1850.

The first session of the Montcalm county court was held in Greenville, at the house of Morton Shearer, on June 11, 1850, Hon. Josiah Russell presiding. "Newcomb J. Ireland vs. Ira Porter" was the first case called and the court journal has the following record in relation thereto: "This cause, being called, was answered to by the plaintiff, and was by him withdrawn."

The second case placed upon the docket was entitled "Abel French and Henry M. Moore vs. Frederick W. Worden and Ananias Worden." "This cause being called, was answered to on the part of the plaintiffs by William Backus, and on the part of the defendants by Frederick W. Worden. The suit was then withdrawn by the plaintiffs. There being no further business, the court adjourned."

Judge Russell opened court at the same place, September 10, 1850, but there being no business before His Honor, the court "was adjourned sine die." On December 10 following, court was again opened, when, the suit entitled "Caleb Kniffen vs. Luther R. Jenks" being called, it was answered to by the plaintiff and by the defendant. Adam L. Roof, as attorney, appeared for the plaintiff, and A. F. Bell, of the firm of Blanchard & Bell, for the defendant. Mr. Bell argued that "this is not the time for holding a court in this county, also that the county has no lawful place for holding a court." The court decided, however, that "this is the day for the opening of a regular term of this county court, and that the house of Morton Shearer is the legal place for holding said court." Mr. Bell then pleaded that the seal attached to the papers in the case was not lawful, and again obtained an adverse decision from the court. The case was finally adjourned, by consent of all parties, to the next term.

The next term of the county court was opened on March 11, 1851, Hon. Josiah Russell presiding. The case of "Kniffen vs. Jenks" being called, Charles C. Ellsworth appeared as attorney for the plaintiff and withdrew the case, whereupon judgment was rendered against the plaintiff for costs. Judge Russell afterwards held terms of court which were convened June 10, September 9 and December 9, 1851, but it does not appear, taken

all in all, that much business was transacted in the county court of Montcalm. At last, by a limitation embodied in the constitution of 1850, and under provisions of an act of the Legislature, approved June 28, 1851, the county courts of Michigan ceased to exist, and the suits still pending were transferred to the circuit courts.

In 1824 the three judges of the supreme court were required to hold an annual term in each of the counties of Wayne, Monroe, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair and were authorized to hold special sessions in Crawford, Brown and Michilimackinac counties whenever deemed advisable "in their sound discretion." In 1825 circuit courts were established by name, but were still held by the judges of the supreme court. The circuit court was given original jurisdiction in all civil actions at law where the demand exceeded one thousand dollars, of actions of ejectment, of all criminal cases punishable capitally, and of all cases not exclusively cognizable by other courts, concurrent jurisdiction with county courts in civil actions beyond the jurisdiction of justices of the peace, and of criminal offenses not punishable capitally and appellate jurisdiction from county courts. The circuits were not changed by this act of 1825. Another act was passed in 1827, repealing the essential provisions of the acts of 1824 and 1825, and providing for two more circuits, viz: Washtenaw and Lenawee. The same discretionary powers as to holding terms in Crawford, Brown and Michilimackinac counties were continued.

CIRCUIT COURTS.

In 1833 the county courts in all the counties of the territory east of Lake Michigan except Wayne were abolished and their places supplied by "the circuit court of the territory of Michigan. It consisted of one circuit judge for the entire circuit, and two associate judges for each county. The circuit judge was appointed for four years and the associate judges for three. The court had both chancery and common law jurisdiction and was given original jurisdiction of civil cases at law and crimes not within the jurisdiction of a justice of the peace, and appellate jurisdiction of such as were. It might also determine questions of law arising on motions for new trial or in arrest of judgment. The circuit courts already existing were now called superior circuit courts, and were empowered to issue writs of error to the circuit courts. William A. Fletcher was judge of the circuit court of the territory from the organization of that court until Michigan became a state.

By act approved March 26, 1836, the state was divided into three circuits, and judges of the supreme court were to perform the duties of circuit judges. These courts were given the same powers and jurisdiction as the territorial circuit courts under the act of 1833, except in chancery matters. By the revision of 1846, the court of chancery was abolished and chancery powers conferred upon the several circuit courts. Since then the jurisdiction of circuit courts has been essentially as at present. The Constitution of 1850 made the office of circuit judge elective and the term of office six years. The last act revising the arrangement of the circuits was approved on May 29, 1897, and provided for thirty-five circuits. Act No. 15, Public Acts of 1899, created the thirty-sixth circuit. Acts Nos. 40 and 220, 1901, created the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth circuits. Act No. 75, 1907, created the thirty-ninth circuit. Act No. 303, 1915, created the fortieth circuit.

By the Constitution of 1909, circuit courts are required to be held four times each year in every county organized for judicial purposes. In addition, the Legislature is granted power to combine the circuits into judicial districts and provide the manner of holding courts in such districts.

By an act of the state Legislature, approved March 31, 1851, entitled "An Act to establish a Circuit Court in the County of Montcalm," it was provided that two terms of the circuit court should be held in the county during each year, and that the circuit judge of the fifth district, within twenty days after his appointment, "be authorized and required to appoint the time of holding the terms of circuit court in Montcalm county." Pursuant to the provisions of this act, therefore, the opening of the first circuit court in this county was made a matter of record as follows:

"Greenville, October 1, 1851.

"State of Michigan, Montcalm County:ss.

"This being the first Wednesday of October of said year, and the day appointed by the circuit judge, pursuant to law, for the opening and organization of the circuit court in said county of Montcalm, the court convened at the house of Morton Shearer, in Greenville, in said county, the place designated for holding said court, and was opened by proclamation of Abel French, sheriff. Present, Hon. George Martin, circuit judge. There being no business before the court, the same was adjourned by proclamation of the sheriff sine die.

"(Signed) GEORGE MARTIN.

"Circuit Judge."

At the December, 1851, term the judge was not present, and court was adjourned by the clerk. The term commencing June 15, 1852, was opened by proclamation of Under Sheriff Isaac W. Van Fossen, but, in the absence of the judge, was adjourned until the following day. Pursuant to adjournment, the court was again convened at three o'clock P. M., June 16, 1852, present Hon. George Martin, circuit judge, when the first suit, entitled "George Galloway vs. Josiah Russell; action, an appeal trespass on the case," came up for a hearing. The case being called, C. C. Ellsworth, attorney, answered for his client, the defendant, but, by consent of all parties, the case was continued to the next term.

The next case on the docket was entitled "James Tripp and John F. Tripp vs. Abel French and Henry M. Moore; action, in assumpsit." By default of the defendants, on motion of L. Moore, the plaintiffs' attorney, the plaintiffs proceeded to trial, and at its close judgment was rendered against the defendants in the sum of five hundred and twenty-two dollars and eighteen cents damages, and costs of suit to be taxed.

Judge Martin continued on this circuit until 1857, holding his last term here in October of that year, when he was succeeded by Judge Louis S. Lovell, who held his first court in this county at Greenville, February 16, 1858.

EARLY JURIES.

The first enrollment of a grand jury was made at a general term held at Greenville in October, 1854, when the following persons, "whose names were drawn according to law, and who were summoned by the sheriff to appear as grand jurors," answered to their names: Harvey Allen, Erastus Fisher, William Husker, James Kent, George Loucks, Charles H. Miel, Rufus K. Moore, Abijah Noyes, Manning Rutan, Phineas Swift, Jr., George W. Stevens, Seth Sprague, William R. Sherman, David Wilson, William Wells and George Van Ness, of whom, Rufus K. Moors served as foreman and Seth Sprague as clerk.

At the first term of Judge Lovell's court, February 16, 1858, the grand jurors impaneled were John Burgess, John Rossman, William Walkington, Norman Ferris, Peter Despelder, Quartus Joslin, Stephen Cupp, Harvey Allen, C. P. S. Jackson, James Brown, Sr., William Clark, Philander A. Peck, Henry Gillmore, Lyman Demerest, James Taylor, Jr., William Maxsted, Jr., William Lampman, Harley Bump, William M. Crane, Phineas Swift, Obadiah E. Fuller and Charles H. Miel, and at the same time the

petit jurors assembled were Robert Eastman, Jason Mills, Charles H. Dickerson, Abram Manse, Bradley B. Crawford, Levi J. Allen, Henry B. Trippe, David K. Goodman, Abel G. Peck, D. C. Sebring, Jeremiaah Mabie, Isaac Dickerson, James L. Mann, Hiram E. Russell, Lyman Lamb, Melvin C. Bacon, Erastus Bates, Joe Wilson, Robert Lum, Erastus Fisher, Henry L. Sanford, Ebenezer Ferrand and William Stokes.

CIRCUIT JUDGES.

Since the organization of Montcalm county in 1850, there have been but four judges of the circuit court. Judge George Martin, who came upon the bench in 1852, served until 1858, when he was succeeded by Louis S. Lovell. Judge Lovell served continuously until 1882 and was then succeeded by Vernon H. Smith, a Democrat, who was defeated for re-election in 1894 by the present judge of the court, Judge Frank D. M. Davis, of Ionia. When Judge Davis's term expires, in 1918, he will have served a continuous period of twenty-four years.

The last race made by Judge Lovell in 1881 provoked determined opposition from different factions represented in the county. According to the *Stanton Weekly Clipper*, Judge Lovell had been elected to the bench when a comparatively young man, and in 1882 had completed four terms or twenty-four years on the bench. Moreover, it seems that there had been a tacit understanding among the politicians, when Judge Lovell had been elected in 1876 that he would not be a candidate again. Early in February, 1881, the *Greenville Independent* announced Judge Lovell's candidacy for a fifth term, and this provoked the *Weekly Clipper* of February 11, 1881, to say: "While we can but concede that the *Independent's* candidate is entitled to much respect for the safe and impartial manner in which he has generally presided for the past twenty-four years, there are, in our opinion, very weighty reasons why he should now retire. He is getting quite old and infirm and can retire now, in all probability, with more honor to himself than he can six years hence. The younger members of the bar are almost unanimously opposed to his renomination, and the reasons for their opposition are apparent to all who have witnessed the proceedings in the circuit court for the past few years. While he has generally presided honorably and impartially, it is a notorious fact that, of late years, an inclination to 'set down on' the younger attorneys and listen implicitly to a few older members of the bar has been growing upon him to such an extent as to excite comment from even the uninitiated. We do not presume to say this

course is the result of any malice toward any one or wanton desire to injure any one, but it does undoubtedly injure young attorneys and their clients and favors the old attorneys. It has had the effect to make men hesitate to employ young attorneys, who are above the average in learning and abilities, because 'they are not in favor with the court,' even though they would otherwise prefer to do so. It has caused them to employ certain attorneys because 'they were in favor with the court.' Thus, at least unintentional, partiality upon the bench has injured one portion of the bar and benefited another, which, of course, has been a corresponding injury and benefit to clients. This state of things is generally recognized by all of the attorneys, and, to a considerable extent, by the people throughout the judicial district. Even the older attorneys themselves admit it. This feeling, existing to the extent it does, will force Judge Lovell to secure his renomination and re-election by an unseemly political scramble, and we do not believe he would wish again, at his age, to go upon the bench under any such circumstances were he elected, which is by no means certain should he be nominated."

Judge Lovell was renominated for judge of the eighth judicial circuit, despite all opposition. In the Republican convention of Montcalm county, held February 21, 1881, he secured the delegates to the eighth judicial convention and a little later was renominated at Ionia. Vernon H. Smith was nominated by the Democrats and received the endorsement of the People's party. The campaign was extremely bitter; the Democratic press waging an acrimonious attack on Judge Lovell's official record. The blows must have been delivered with telling effect, for at the election held on Monday, April 4, 1881, Judge Lovell was defeated by a rather large majority. Montcalm county gave only 2,358 votes to Judge Lovell and 2,789 to his opponent. In the whole district, Judge Lovell was defeated by something more than two thousand votes.

Judge Smith's campaign for re-election in 1887 was also a bitter fight, in which he was supported by the Democratic organs and quite as bitterly opposed by the Republican press. Shortly before the election, Monday, April 4, 1887, *The Ionia Sentinel* published what purported to be a list of the cases tried by Judge Smith in which his decisions were reversed by the supreme court. In a supplement to the *Stanton Weekly Clipper* of April 1, 1887, numerous errors are charged in the *Sentinel's* statements. The *Clipper* sums up the case by showing that eighty cases tried by Judge Smith had been appealed, of which forty had been affirmed, thirty-nine reversed and one modified.

Not only was Judge Smith the nominee of the Democrats but he likewise had the indorsement of the Greenbackers, although there was no fusion of these parties this year. The Republicans nominated Oliver L. Spaulding, of St. Johns, to oppose Judge Smith.

The following was the result of the vote on April 4, 1887:

County.	Smith.	Spaulding.
Clinton -----	2,863-----	3,125
Ionia -----	3,758-----	2,989
Montcalm -----	3,396-----	2,926
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10,917	9,040

Majority for Judge Smith, 977.

Six years later Judge Smith's opponent for re-election was the present judge of the eighth judicial circuit, Frank D. Davis, of Ionia. The Democratic press of Montcalm county was again on the firing line for Judge Smith, but this time their efforts were less successful. The Republican candidate defeated Judge Smith by a substantial majority at the election held Monday, April 13, 1892, and in Montcalm county received 2,932 votes to 2,133 cast for Judge Smith. Judge Davis was re-elected in 1899, again in 1905 and once more in 1911. He will have served four terms when his present term expires.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS.

The following have served as prosecuting attorneys of the Montcalm circuit court: Charles C. Ellsworth, 1851; Daniel C. Moore, 1852; Westbrook Divine, 1854; Jacob Ferris, 1856; John Lewis, 1858; Charles C. Ellsworth, 1860; Seth Sprague, 1864; John Lewis, 1866; Harmon Smith, 1868; Charles Ellsworth, 1870; Albert G. Thomas, 1872; H. I. Garbutt, 1874; Harmon Smith, 1876; Norris J. Brown, 1880; Charles L. Rarden, 1884; Frank A. Miller, 1888; Bert Hayes, 1892; William S. Whittlesey, 1896; Frank A. Miller, 1898; Earl F. Phelps, 1906; Charles B. Rarden, 1910; J. Claude Youdan, 1912; Frank A. Miller, 1914 to present time.

PROBATE COURT.

By act of the governor and judges, adopted August 31, 1805, the courts of the several districts, or any judge of the said territory, or the

clerk of the court of the district, were authorized to take the proof of wills and grant letters testamentary and of administration. In 1811 provision was made for the appointment in each district of a register, with essentially the same powers. Finally, in 1818, a court of probate was established in each county, to be held by some "able and learned person," appointed by the governor, from which court appeal might be taken to the supreme court. These courts continued in operation until after Michigan had become a state.

The revised statutes of 1838 made the office of judge of probate elective for a term of four years. In different cases appeals were allowed to the circuit or to the supreme court. The revision of 1846 provided for direct appeals to the circuit court only. The Constitution of 1850 provided for a probate court in each organized county, the judge of which was to be elected for a term of four years.

The new Constitution of 1909 gives probate court original jurisdiction in all cases of juvenile delinquents and dependents. The Legislature may provide by law for the election of more than one judge of probate in counties having more than one hundred thousand inhabitants, and may provide for the election of judges in such counties at alternate biennial elections.

The first session of this court in Montcalm county, according to the records on file in the probate office, was held "at the office of the judge thereof," in Greenville, on Monday, December 1, 1851, Hon. Chauncey W. Olmstead, probate judge, presiding. The first proceedings were "in the matter of the petition of Jacob W. Petty," praying for the appointment of said Petty as administrator of the estate of Samuel S. Coy, deceased. Upon proof being adduced of the death of Coy, it was "ordered that Monday, January 5, 1852, be assigned for the hearing of said petition." At the date last mentioned, however, Josiah Russell was appointed administrator of the Coy estate, giving bonds in the sum of one thousand dollars for the faithful performance of his trust, George Loucks also signing the bond.

The next proceedings were in the matter of the estate of Henry C. Skinner, who died in Eureka, March 26, 1852. In this case Lafayette Knight was granted letters of administration, Issac W. Van Fossen becoming his bondsman.

A complete list of the probate judges in Montcalm county since the organization of the county is as follows: Stephen H. Warren, 1850; Chauncey W. Olmstead, 1850; Morton Shearer, 1852; Myron Rider, 1856;

Elijah Coffren, 1860; Jacob M. Dickerson, 1868; Asa Morse, 1872; Norris O. Griswold, 1880; John Lewis, 1884; Edward P. Wallace, 1888; Edward H. Jones, 1892; Oscar Fenn, 1896; C. C. Messenger, 1900; Lucas M. Miel, 1908 to the present time.

CIRCUIT COURT COMMISSIONERS.

The Michigan state Constitution of 1909 provides in Article VII, Section 21, "the Legislature may provide by law for the election of one or more persons in each organized county who may be vested with judicial powers not exceeding those of a judge of the circuit court at chambers," and it was this section which intended to perpetuate the office of circuit court commissioner under the old Constitution. The commissioner is merely a subordinate assistant to the circuit court, and can be vested with judicial powers only in a very subordinate sense, merely *quasi* judicial, such only as a circuit judge may exercise out of court.

An act now in force in the state of Michigan provides that circuit court commissioners are to be elected every two years and that in counties of twenty thousand or more population there shall be two commissioners instead of one. In Montcalm county two commissioners have been elected instead of one at every election since 1874.

Section 12502 of Howell's Michigan Statutes of 1913, second edition, provides that "circuit court commissioners, qualified according to law, shall severally be authorized and required to perform all the duties and execute every act, power and trust which a judge of the circuit court may perform and execute out of court, according to the rules and practice of such court, and pursuant to the provisions of any statute, in all civil cases, except as herein otherwise provided; but when any power is given in express terms, by any statute, to a circuit judge or to circuit judges, without naming circuit court commissioners in such statute, such commissioners shall not be authorized to exercise any such powers."

Since 1854 the following gentlemen have served as circuit court commissioners in Montcalm county: J. B. Chamberlin, 1854; Jacob Ferris, 1856; John Lewis, 1858; Charles C. Ellsworth, 1860; Charles C. Ellsworth, 1862; Seth Sprague, 1864; Harmon Smith, 1866; Francis Palmer, 1868; Lyman C. Moore, 1870; Harmon Smith, 1872; M. C. Palmer and Norris O. Griswold, 1874; Norris J. Brown and Norris O. Griswold, 1876; Norris J. Brown and Norris O. Griswold, 1878; George C. Ellsworth and Frank A. Miller, 1880; C. W. Perry and Frank A. Miller, 1882; C. W. Perry and

William A. Briggs, 1884; Joseph M. Fuller and William A. Briggs, 1886; William A. Briggs and Joseph M. Fuller, 1888; Joseph M. Fuller and Bert Hayes, 1890; William A. Briggs and Charles S. Fuller, 1892; William A. Briggs, and C. W. Perry, 1894; C. E. Elliot and Charles S. Fuller, 1896; Asa Morse and Charles S. Fuller, 1898; Asa Morse and Charles S. Fuller, 1900; Charles S. Fuller and William A. Briggs, 1902; Charles S. Fuller and William A. Briggs, 1904; William A. Briggs and C. E. Elliott, 1906; C. E. Elliot and Charles B. Rarden, 1908; C. E. Elliot and William A. Briggs, 1910; C. E. Elliot and Fred J. Cole, 1912; C. E. Elliot and Fred J. Cole, 1914 to the present time.

No person shall be elected to the office of circuit court commissioner unless he be at the time of his election an attorney or counsellor-at-law of the supreme court.

In 1915 the Michigan state Legislature enacted into law the new "Judicature Act," comprising four hundred eighty-two pages of text and which is defined by title to be: "An act to revise and consolidate the statutes relating to the organization and jurisdiction of the courts of this state; the powers and duties of such courts, and of the judges and other officers thereof; the forms of civil action; the time within which civil actions and proceedings may be brought in said courts; pleading, evidence, practice and procedure in civil actions and proceedings in said courts; to provide remedies and penalties for the violation of certain provisions of this act, and to repeal all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with or contravening any of the provisions of this act."

A discussion of the radical changes and reforms made in the judicial procedure of this state by this act is not, however, within the province of this chapter or work.

ATTORNEYS WHO HAVE PRACTICED HERE.

The roll of attorneys who have resided in Montcalm county and who have practiced in the courts of this county is incomplete, but from many different sources an almost complete list of attorneys has been obtained. Some of the early lawyers were Charles C. Ellsworth, John Lewis, Lyman C. Moore, George S. Steere, D. A. Elliott, Thomas F. Shields, George H. Cagwin, Harmon Smith, W. E. Hoyt, Charles B. Pratt, Ephraim Follett, Norris J. Brown, Norris O. Griswold and Charles L. Rarden.

Charles C. Ellsworth, who represented the district comprising Montcalm county in the United States Congress from March 4, 1877, to March

3, 1879, was born in West Berkshire, Vermont, January 29, 1824. He came to Michigan in 1846 and located at Greenville in 1851. He was the first president of the village of Greenville, and in 1852 served in the lower house of the Michigan state Legislature. In 1862 he served in the Union army as paymaster and also served six years as prosecuting attorney of the circuit comprising Montcalm county. Ellsworth was a dignified man as well as one possessed of extraordinary ability. He had studied law before coming to Greenville, and was admitted to practice at Howell, Livingston county, Michigan. Among the other positions which he held was that of circuit court commissioner. During the latter years of his life he practiced in partnership first with Dexter T. Sapp and John Lewis; then with C. L. Rarden, and lastly with N. O. Griswold. He died at Greenville, Michigan, June 24, 1899.

John Lewis came to Greenville in September, 1853, from Vermont. He had studied law with Judge Beckwith, of St. Albans, Vermont, who later removed to Chicago and became an eminent lawyer there. For a time Mr. Lewis was a member of the firm of Ellsworth, Lewis & Sapp. He served as prosecuting attorney from 1866 to 1868, as circuit court commissioner from 1858 to 1860, as judge of the probate from 1884 to 1888, and during the later years of his life enjoyed an extensive practice, especially in the higher state and federal courts. At the time of his death his law partner was William S. Whittlesey.

Milo Lewis, son of John Lewis, now occupies his father's old offices in Greenville, where he has carried on an extensive practice of his profession since the death of his father in 1895. Milo Lewis is an expert in probate law, to which he gives much of his attention. He graduated from the University of Michigan, was admitted to practice in this county and has resided in Greenville practically his entire life. He occupies his father's homestead. Politically, he is a Democrat, conducted the office of probate judge during his father's incumbency, and was postmaster at Greenville during Cleveland's second administration. He is quiet and unassuming, but a clean and honorable gentleman.

D. A. Elliott came to Greenville from Pontiac, Oakland county, where he had previously studied law and had been admitted to the bar. He lived for a time at Corunna, Livingston county, and settled in Greenville in 1867, where he remained until his death, in 1905. Elliott was a Democrat in politics and served for a time as justice of the peace.

Thomas F. Shields, who practiced law for a time at Stanton, was one of five brothers who were lawyers. Dennis E. practiced at Howell; Peter settled at San Antonio, Texas; John C. practiced at Lansing, and Terrance, at Stanton and Howell. Thomas F. removed from Stanton to San Antonio in the early eighties to join his brother Peter.

George H. Cagwin was active in the practice of law at Carson City for many years. He came to Michigan from New York state and in his early life had been a sailor on the lakes. Subsequently, he became a member of the firm of Blanchard, Bell & Cagwin, at Ionia, but the death of Bell and the retirement of Blanchard dissolved the firm and Cagwin returned to Carson City, where he continued in the active practice so long as he was physically able. He died at Carson City about 1896.

Harmon Smith, who was familiarly known as "Harm," was an eccentric character and a man of far more than average ability. His invitation to a troubled public was a sign over his office: "Harm Smith, His Law Office." He was the first lawyer to locate in Stanton, and is believed to have been a native of Barry county, Michigan. He served as prosecuting attorney of the county from 1876 to 1880 and as circuit court commissioner from 1866 to 1868 and from 1872 to 1874. After practicing at Stanton for many years he removed to a farm north of Ionia where he lived until his death.

Lyman C. Moore, who served in the Civil War as a private in Company C, Third Michigan Cavalry, came to Stanton shortly after his discharge from the army, in 1865. For many years he took a prominent part in the courts of this judicial circuit and continued to reside at Stanton until his death, about twenty years ago. During the later years of his life he was thought to be lazy, but the public little knew the cause of his physical indifference or that a cancer was slowly sapping his life away. Moore was a splendid gentleman.

C. E. Elliot, who is now well advanced in years, is still living in Stanton, where he has been prominent for many years in an official way. He served for a time as justice of the peace and as circuit court commissioner, 1896-98 and from 1906 to the present time, having been elected the last time in 1914. He was admitted to practice January 16, 1882.

William A. Briggs, who for some years was a member of the firm of Smith & Briggs, of Stanton, served as circuit court commissioner from 1884 to 1890, from 1892 to 1896 and from 1902 to 1908. He also, for a great number of years, was one of the justices of the peace in Stanton. He came from Battle Creek to Stanton about 1878 where he lived until

his death in 1911. He was a graduate of the law department of the University of Michigan.

W. E. Hoyt, a native of Oakland county, came to Greenville in 1877, where he remained in practice until 1892, when he removed to Muskegon, Michigan, and entered practice there with Smith, Nims, Hoyt & Irwin. In 1880 he was elected justice of the peace, which office he held for some years.

Ephraim Follett, a soldier of the Civil War, located in Sheridan in an early day and continued the practice of the law until his death, in 1911. He studied law in the office of Judge Benjamin F. Graves at Battle Creek. He lived to an advanced age.

George W. Stoneburner, a soldier of the Civil War, was admitted to practice in the county and settled in Stanton soon after the close of the war. He served as justice of the peace for many years.

James F. Covill, who was a major in the First Michigan Sharpshooters, was county superintendent of schools for a time after his return from the service. He settled and practiced law in Crystal about 1872. About 1874 he removed to Sheridan, where he continued practice and later died.

J. H. Tateum, a graduate of the University of Michigan, commenced practice in Greenville and was city attorney for a short time, when he removed to Grand Rapids and practiced for many years. For some years he acted as counsel for the Anti-Saloon League of Michigan. His death occurred about three years ago.

Charles W. Perry for many years lived and practiced in Howard City, although he gave most of his time to the brokerage business. He was circuit court commissioner from 1882 to 1886 and from 1894 to 1896. He died about fifteen years ago.

Dexter T. Sapp, who studied law in Kalamazoo with Judge Joes L. Hawes and H. C. Severance, and who was admitted to the practice of the law at Coldwater, Branch county, removed to Greenville in 1870 where he became associated with Daniel C. Moore. This partnership lasted but a brief period. In 1874 the firm of Ellsworth, Lewis & Sapp was organized, and continued business for a time, until Mr. Lewis retired, when the firm of Ellsworth & Sapp was formed and continued until Mr. Sapp removed to Denver, Colorado.

M. C. Palmer, who was born at Rome, New York, July 24, 1847, graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan in 1872, and settled in Stanton in 1873. In 1876 he was married to Mary Turner. He was an able lawyer and a polished orator. For five years he was senior

member of the firm of Palmer & Garbutt. In 1893 he removed to Virginia, Minnesota, where he practiced for a time. He was elected register of deeds and removed to the county seat, Duluth, where he held the office for more than ten years, or until his death, October 2, 1912. His remains were brought to Stanton and interred in Forest Hill cemetery.

11. Irving Garbutt spent his early life in Lakeview, where he commenced the practice of the law. In 1874 he was elected to the office of prosecuting attorney of the county and removed to Stanton, where he continued practice until he removed to Ft. Collins, Colorado, where he still resides.

George S. Steere studied law and was admitted to practice in Stanton in 1877. He was a very hard worker and became an able lawyer. In 1892 he moved to Chicago, where he became prominent as an attorney and where he died in 1914. His son, Lloyd Steere, is a lawyer in Chicago. His wife and family dwell in Stanton.

Emery J. Blanding, who was admitted to the Montcalm county bar, lived and practiced his profession at Coral until his death in 1913.

William C. Steere was admitted to practice in the county in 1883, for a time practiced at Stanton, later became and now is official court stenographer for this judicial circuit, with headquarters at Ionia, where he now resides.

Norris J. Brown, who practiced at Stanton for a number of years, was educated for the law in the office of Albert Williams, former attorney-general of Michigan, at the latter's office in Ionia. Brown began the practice of law at Sheridan, but later moved to Stanton and in the fall of 1880 was elected prosecuting attorney, a position which he held four years. In 1888 he was elected a member of the Michigan state Legislature. Upon the expiration of his term he removed to Muskegon and engaged in business for two or three years. Afterwards he removed to Grand Rapids and about ten years ago established a gas plant at Mt. Pleasant, of which he is now in charge. He has not practiced law for many years.

George P. Stone, who was admitted to practice law in Montcalm county August 1, 1873, practiced at Carson City until 1887, when he removed to Ithaca, in Gratiot county. There he was elected circuit judge and after his retirement from the bench resumed the active practice at Ithaca, where he is now engaged.

Alva G. Smith, who was admitted to practice law in Montcalm county, March 19, 1890, later removed to Lake City, where he was elected prosecut-

ing attorney and state senator. Subsequently, he removed to the West, but returned to his father's old homestead in Ionia county, near Portland, where he is now living.

Earl F. Phelps, who served as prosecuting attorney of Montcalm county from 1906 to 1908, lived at Howard City. After his re-election he resigned to go into partnership with M. L. Dunham at Grand Rapids. Phelps was appointed prosecuting attorney in Kent county and afterwards was elected. He retired from office January 1, 1915, and is now in the active practice. He was admitted to the Montcalm county bar in June, 1899.

Bert Hayes located in Sheridan about 1887 where he practiced until 1892, when he was elected prosecuting attorney, which office he held until January, 1897. Later he moved to Alma, and then to Grand Rapids, where he still is engaged in business.

William S. Whittlesey, who was born in New York in 1846, graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan in 1869, first located in Big Rapids, and later at Edmore, from where he was elected county clerk of this county. This office he held for six years from January, 1889, to January, 1895. After completing his duties as clerk, he removed to Greenville and formed a partnership with John Lewis, under the firm name of Lewis & Whittlesey, which firm continued until the death of Mr. Lewis. In 1898 Mr. Whittlesey was elected prosecuting attorney, which office he held for two years, after which he opened an office in Chicago where he remained for some years. He then retired to a fruit farm near Benton Harbor, where he still resides.

L. A. Lyon, son of Aaron Lyon, one of the pioneers of the county, was admitted to the bar and commenced the practice of law in his home village of Carson City, where he remained in active practice and built up a lucrative business, until 1910, when he moved to Iron River, Michigan, to go into partnership with Judge Byers. Mr. Lyon is a conscientious, clean attorney and is meeting with success.

Other attorneys who were admitted to practice in the county in the early days, but who were not active in practice in the circuit court, with the year they located here, were: William Chapin, 1851; Alfred M. Chapin, 1854, a gifted young attorney who died within the year; Lucius Patterson, 1853; Milo Blair, 1854, who established the *Greenville Reflector*; John F. Loase, 1858; Dr. Seth Sprau, 1862; Charles B. Pratt, 1873; Frank L. Allen; Daniel C. Moore, 1874; George E. Backus, 1876; George Ellsworth, 1880; James E. Newton, 1882; Joseph P. McCarthy, 1889, who later became a Methodist minister, all of Greenville; Asa Morse, who was judge of pro-

bate from 1877 to 1881; John C. Mattison; George A. Smith; Peleg S. Dodge, 1873, who founded the *Stanton Clipper*; Z. N. Garbutt, 1873; George McGarry, 1877; George W. Albrecht, 1881, of Stanton; A. P. Thomas, who was for a time prosecuting attorney, and A. E. Bolster, who later became a Free-Will Baptist minister; both located at Howard City; H. F. Perrinton, 1871, of Carson City; A. T. Call; C. R. Smith, 1875, at Lakeview; and William E. Rice, 1883, at Six Lakes.

Among the attorneys who have more recently been admitted and have ceased practicing or removed may be mentioned Charles S. Fuller, of Greenville, and John S. Tenant and Sophus Johnson, who were both for a time associated with Judge Griswold. Mr. Tenant is now a salesman at Jackson and Mr. Johnson is associated with the Michigan Trust Company at Grand Rapids.

Judge Norris O. Griswold, of Greenville, is the Nestor of the Montcalm county bar. He is the president of the Montcalm County Bar Association, and the only president that society has ever had. He was born in Ohio, came to Michigan in early life, attended the Greenville high school and later studied law in the office of Hon. C. C. Ellsworth, at Greenville, and was admitted to practice in 1872. He was judge of probate from 1881 to 1885, and has held numerous other minor offices. While he has practiced mostly in Greenville, yet he resided in Stanton while he was judge and later practiced there for a time. Returning to Greenville, he continued his practice and later went into partnership with Hon. C. C. Ellsworth, with whom he remained, under the firm name of Ellsworth & Griswold, until the death of Mr. Ellsworth in 1899, since when he has practiced by himself. He is a leader in his city and is held in high esteem by his fellow townsmen.

Charles L. Rarden, of Greenville, is one of the early attorneys of the county and is now senior member of the firm of Rarden & Rarden, the junior member being his son, Charles B. Rarden. Charles L. Rarden was born in Ohio in 1852 and two years later accompanied his parents to Michigan. He attended the Greenville high school, and the University of Michigan, from which he graduated in 1878, when he immediately commenced the practice of his profession. He has held various offices of trust and responsibility, was prosecuting attorney from 1885 to 1889, member of the state board of pardons, and was supervisor of the census of the eleventh Michigan district in 1890. He is an able lawyer, a Republican and a leader in politics in his community.

Charles B. Rarden, familiarly known as "Bret," is junior member of

the firm of Rarden & Rarden. He secured his education at the Greenville high school and the University of Michigan. He is a promising young attorney, was prosecuting attorney of the county from 1909 to 1913, and is a very pleasing and popular gentleman as well as a good lawyer. He is a Republican in politics and is active in the councils of the party.

Fred J. Cole, of Greenville, is a graduate of the Detroit College of Law, and has for many years been a justice of the peace in that city. He has never been in active practice, but is a popular official, well liked by all who know him.

Floyd E. Winter, of Greenville, is a graduate of the University of Michigan and a promising young attorney. He is the son of T. B. Winter, who is president of the Greenville Republican Club. For a time Mr. Winter practiced in Idaho, but, on account of ill health there, returned to Greenville where he has recently established himself and is building up a lucrative practice.

Hon. Edward J. Bowman, of Greenville, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work, is a leader in his profession. He has held numerous positions of trust and responsibility, among which has been that of United States district attorney for this district. He is an active Republican, was one of the chief organizers and an early president of the Greenville Republican Club. He is an estimable gentleman.

William A. Sweet, Jr., of Carson City, was admitted to practice in 1882. He is also a civil engineer, to which he has given most of his time. The practice of law has received but little attention from him in the past twenty-five years. He is now retired and is spending the declining years of his life in quiet.

Andrew B. Goodwin has practiced in Carson City for many years. He is a Democrat and the present postmaster of that village. His sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

Salem F. Kennedy is the sole practitioner in the village of Lakeview, where he has been located for some thirty years. He is a brilliant mathematician, and has worked out a remarkable formula by which he has produced a fine series of tables for the assessment of taxes. His sketch appears elsewhere in this history.

J. Claude Youdan, of Howard City, was reared at Crystal, in this county, where he practiced for some years before he located in Howard City. His sketch appears elsewhere in this work. He was prosecuting attorney of the county in 1913 and 1914. He is an orator of no mean ability and spends much time on the lyceum and lecture platform.

Otto J. Wolfe, for many years a practitioner of law at Howard City, where he holds the confidence of all the people, has never been active in court practice. As a counsellor he is much sought. His sketch appears in another portion of the work.

Frank A. Miller, of Stanton, was admitted to practice on October 4, 1880, and soon afterward was elected a justice of the peace, which office he held for four years. He was the son of Rev. C. C. Miller, a Baptist minister. He studied law in the office of Palmer & Garbutt, and held the office of circuit court commissioner from 1881 to 1885. In 1888 he was elected prosecuting attorney of the county and served four years. In 1898 he was again elected prosecuting attorney and served eight years continuously. And again in 1914 he was elected to that office, which he now holds.

Lucian C. Palmer, one of the active attorneys at Stanton at the present time, was admitted to the Montcalm county bar on June 18, 1888, since when he has built up a lucrative practice in his profession in this and adjoining counties of the state. Upon the resignation of Judge Edward P. Wallace, in 1890, Mr. Palmer was appointed judge of probate by the governor, which position he held until January 1, 1893.

John W. Dasef, editor of the historical portion of this work, resides in Stanton and was admitted to practice in 1902. His sketch appears in the biographical section.

By change in the state laws in 1895 it was provided that attorneys thereafter should be admitted to practice in the state courts of Michigan by the supreme court on recommendation of the state board of law examiners, after rigid examination. Previous to that time admissions were made by the several circuit courts upon examination and recommendation of committees of attorneys appointed by that court. Since that change in the law and the resulting more strenuous examinations, fewer admissions have been made of residents of the county, with the result that there are fewer attorneys in the county than formerly.

The resident attorneys of Montcalm county at the present time are as follows: J. C. Youdan, Howard City; Otto J. Wolfe, Howard City; N. O. Griswold, Greenville; C. L. Rarden, Greenville; C. B. Rarden, Greenville; Milo Lewis, Greenville, E. J. Bowman, Greenville; F. J. Cole, Greenville; F. E. Winter, Greenville; J. W. Dasef, Stanton; Frank A. Miller, Stanton; C. E. Elliott, Stanton; L. C. Palmer, Stanton; William A. Sweet, Jr., Carson City; A. B. Goodwin, Carson City; S. F. Kennedy, Lakeview.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

HISTORY OF STANTON.

Stanton, the county seat of Montcalm county, lies almost in the exact center of sixteen townships, which, together with four townships to the northwest, make up Montcalm county at the present time. Named for Edwin M. Stanton, President Lincoln's secretary of war, at the suggestion of Fred Hall, for whom the village was first named, Stanton has in the fifty-five years of its history passed through many epochal changes.

Established in the midst of the Michigan pine forests almost two full generations ago, Stanton has seen the mighty monarchs of the forest felled with all the zest of industry where nature is lavish with her wealth and when the thought of exploitation as a phase of industrial development was a word unknown to the workers who had before them only visions of quick and bounteous gain. The thud of the woodman's ax and the music of the whirling saw are heard no more. When the lumbering industry moved westward to more profitable fields, the country roundabout Stanton was left in pitiable desolation and waste, but not for long. In place of the woodman, came presently, the man who is contented with the smaller, if more certain and more constant, gain.

The territory tributary to Stanton as a commercial center has been transformed from an ashen waste of stumps, underbrush and puny reminders of the great soaring pines that had so long been their company in the forest, to an agricultural country of green fields, growing crops and lowing herds. Montcalm county is still in its swaddling clothes, so far as agricultural development is concerned, but the farmers are alert, eager to develop the soil and are doing so. Stanton has touched elbows with the country to the north, south, east and west of it, in these various stages of growth and progress, and the history of the section is likewise the history of Stanton. Stanton was first incorporated as a village by the state Legislature in 1869, after the petition asking that the village be incorporated was filed with the board of supervisors. An exact copy of the original petition is given in full:

"Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the board of supervisors of Montcalm county on the 16th of October, next, A. D.

1867, for an order incorporating the territory hereinafter described as a village, to-wit: The west half of the southeast quarter, and southwest fractional quarter, in section number 31, town 11 north, range 6 west; also the east half of the southeast quarter of section 36, in town 11 north, range 7 west; also the east half of the northwest quarter and northeast fractional quarter of section 1, in town 10 north, range 7 west, and the west fractional half of the northwest fractional quarter of section 6, town 16 north, range 6 west, in Montcalm county, state of Michigan. E. O. Shaw, J. D. Winchell, J. W. Cadwell, A. Lyon, Andrew J. Corey, E. A. Moffat, E. M. Cheeney, David Hunt, I. Lucas, A. T. Ayres, J. A. Bradford, G. F. Case, G. C. Wallace, Levi Camburn, J. M. Zinkhan, C. A. Chrysler, Daniel Gage, W. G. Wilkinson, H. L. Parker, John Morse, Ira C. Horton, Marcus Gardner, F. M. Hinds, J. P. Beers, W. M. Armstrong, A. F. Lee, W. F. Turner, J. J. M. Newcomb, W. F. Jenkins, G. Gilbert, Daniel Smith, Harmon Smith, William Follett, Robert Wallace, A. Vinecore, Miles Dunham, S. Underwood, Alvin Morse, Oscar Fenn, D. S. West, J. L. Moffatt, George B. Coston and C. M. Conkling."

The above petition was a notice printed in the *Montcalm Herald*, which at that time was edited by Edwin V. Shaw. This petition was dated September 23, 1867. The population at the time of the filing of this petition in that territory set forth by the said petition, according to the figures given by Levi Camburn, who was appointed to take the census, was 419.

INCORPORATED AS A CITY.

In 1875, the village of Stanton was reincorporated, and the people were content to live under the blessings of village government until 1881, when it was incorporated as a city. Ever since 1881 the affairs of Stanton have been administered under the city form of government. The population of Stanton is given as 1,012 by the 1910 census, but there have been times, during the lumber boom of the eighties and early nineties, when Stanton boasted of 2,500 people. The decline of the lumber industry took away many of these people, who were temporary residents, and only quite recently has the county seat begun to realize any appreciable effects from the solid and substantial progress of farming. It would appear that 1910 marked the low tide of population and that henceforth the county seat is to enjoy a normal, uninterrupted growth as a consequence of this splendid effort of the Montcalm county farmers.

Reverting to the earlier history of Stanton, it may be said that there

was a strong desire on the part of the citizens of the county as early as 1856 to remove the county seat, then located at Greenville, to a more central location, one more accessible to all the people. As other centers of trade became more clearly defined and some of them, like Langston, Amsden and Sheridan, became places of considerable business importance, the contest for the county seat grew in proportions. Each locality had numerous and earnest advocates. To unite the various factions in view of the contending interests was earnestly sought by representative men of the county who were not directly interested in the growth and progress of the thrifty little village of Greenville.

Among the men most prominent in bringing about unity of action in this regard were John Smith, of Crystal; William Castel, of Bushnell; Aaron Lyon, of Bloomer, and George F. Case, of Evergreen.

At several meetings of the board of supervisors the subject of removal was discussed and voted upon, but the west half of the county having a majority in the board, all efforts for the time were unavailing. In 1857 the township of Pierson, then comprising towns 11 and 12 north, ranges 9 and 10 west, was severed from Mecosta county and annexed to Montcalm, with the ostensible reason, as is asserted by old settlers, of favoring Greenville. While the inhabitants of the eastern part of the county looked with exceeding disfavor upon this act of the Legislature, by which it broke the outline of counties to favor a particular locality, apparently for political purposes, they endeavored to counterbalance it by organizing new townships. In this, however, they, as well as the west part of the county, were unsuccessful, for the rival factions each held the other in check.

At the meeting of the board of supervisors in 1860 a petition was presented to divide the township of Pierson and organize two new townships. The members from the eastern townships persistently refused to favor this petition unless the supervisor of Pierson should vote to remove the capital to the geographical center of the "old county." To this he finally consented; at least, with this understanding that the proposed new townships should be considered favorably. The board, however, still refused to remove the county seat unless a deed first be executed conveying to the county the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 1, in Sidney, which Fred Hall, of Ionia, had agreed to donate should the seat of justice be located here. John Smith, the member from Crystal, declared that the board should have the deed before sunrise, and forthwith set out, in company with Aaron Lyon, of Bloomer, for Ionia, reaching the residence of Fred Hall about eleven o'clock at night. He was roused from his

bed, and the deed properly made out. At an early hour the following morning the board convened, the deed was read and their votes claimed. There was no chance for evasion now. The supervisor of Pierson, however, refused. The board immediately reconsidered its action in regard to the new townships. He then promised to vote for the measure if his townships would again be organized. The motion for removal was this time first presented, and having passed, new townships were erected without any serious inconvenience.

The county seat by this action was established in a forest of pine four miles from the nearest white habitation, the nearest being probably the log cabin of Hiram Amsburg in Sidney. Capt. J. P. Beers, a veteran of Company A, Eighty-eighth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, was made agent for the sale of lots. Whatever means may have been resorted to to bring about this removal, the benefit to the county on the whole cannot be questioned. At the next meeting of the board the new capital was called "Fred," in honor of Fred Hall, of Ionia. In compliance with his earnest solicitation, however, the name was changed to Stanton, in honor of the secretary of war during the Rebellion.

A NIGHT SESSION OF THE COUNTY BOARD.

After the new location was decided upon the contract for felling the timber on twenty acres was let to John Wilson, of Fairplain, and a contract to build a court house was entered into with M. P. Follett, of Amsden. The clearing was at once begun and the court house was soon completed. At the first meeting of the board in the new building the members brought provisions and blankets with them, as there was at that time in the county seat no other building or accommodations whatever. But M. P. Follett had foreseen this emergency and had taken some steps to provide for the board. He had secured the services of Dr. Sylvester Derby and wife, who lived near Derby lake, in Sidney township. Rooms were temporarily fitted up for them in the court house and necessary arrangements for cooking introduced. But there were no beds, and at night the members arranged themselves in two rows on the floor. But the slumber did not visit them readily, and Westbrook Devine, who was a large, heavy man, rolled himself over the entire line of prostrate and half-sleeping forms. This he called "equalizing the roll." As he continued in this equalizing process, M. P. Follett, the chairman of the board, requested the clerk to call the roll. As he proceeded to fulfill this duty every member, thinking it only a continuation of

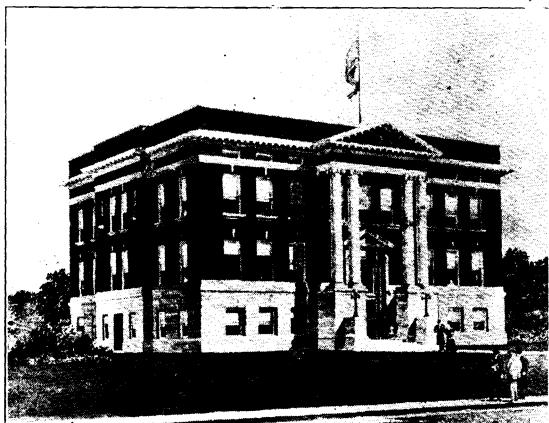
the order already observed, answered promptly to his name, expecting to be called to a sham session of the board. In this, however, they were disappointed; the session was called, but for a different purpose. When the roll was called, Mr. Follett, bringing his gavel down heavily on the table, said: "Now come to Limerick." They roused up by degrees, and when in their order the usual formalities were duly observed, the regular business commenced. After a session, lasting from one o'clock until three in the morning, they adjourned, and entirely exhausted, betook themselves quietly to sleep. At this meeting it was decided to remove the county offices. Levi Camburn, the county treasurer, thought the prospect of living here very limited.

To obtain material for building purposes was next to impossible. Ryder's saw-mill, in Evergreen, which was the nearest, was four miles distant, but the only route was by way of Sheridan, and the road north from that village was scarcely passable more than half of the distance. The weather was extremely cold, and the action of the board seemed to be very premature. They voted, however, to allow Mr. Camburn the use of part of the court house for a dwelling. This avoided present difficulties, and the offices were soon transferred. The family of Levi Camburn was, therefore, the first to settle in Stanton, or, as it was then called, "Fred." The first business place was opened by Abram Roosa, who, in the summer of 1862, built a log house one story and a half and twenty-six by thirty feet, in which he commenced keeping hotel. This having received a number of additions, was lost in the Stanton House, of which it formed a part.

THE OWL'S NEST.

In the *Stanton Weekly Clipper*, for December 26, 1884, there may be found the following interesting account of the house built by Abram Roosa:

"The recent fire (December 18, 1884), wiped out one of the oldest landmarks of Stanton—the Central House. About the year 1862 Abram Roosa came into this neck of the woods, soon after the board of supervisors had decided to locate the county seat here, and early in the season put up a one-and-a-half-story, twenty-six by thirty log house on a considerable hill well back from where the corner of Main and Camburn streets was supposed to be—quite a supposition in those days from the fact that neither street had then been chopped or logged off—for the purpose of accommodating the 'traveling public,' which, by the way, was at that time largely



MONTCALM COUNTY COURT HOUSE.



STANTON, THIRTY YEARS AGO, FROM STEEPLE OF OLD COURT HOUSE.

Indian and the public highways were winding Indian trails through unbroken forests of towering pine.

"This log building was the first hotel in Stanton and only two buildings preceded it in point of time, and probably none in importance, as it was around its old-fashioned open fireplace that the future city was discussed. The building now standing on Main street on what is known as the 'Rice lot,' the only one of the three now left standing, and the court house, removed some years ago to make room for the new, were the only buildings that were built before the hotel. Mr. Roosa conducted the hotel but a short time and then sold it to Henry L. Parker, who, in turn, disposed of it to C. M. Newcomb, under whose management the house attained most of its early fame. It became known the country over as 'The Owl's Nest,' and even on the night of the fire it was frequently remarked, 'that is the last of the Owl's Nest.' Whether it got its name from the sign or whether the name suggested the sign we do not know, but on the peak of the roof a solemn, lonely-looking, wooden owl sat for years in grim silence. Guests came and went and the business of the house increased. Addition after addition was built on here and there around the main building to accommodate the public. Finally, Newcomb died and the property passed into the hands of his wife and children, who continued the business and kept the owl on the roof. An addition was built on the front and the owl was provided a new porch on its front. The house finally came under the management of Calvin Newcomb, a son of his eccentric father, who built on a three-story front—part of the building just destroyed—and perched the owl on its front battlement. In the meantime the house had been designated as the Stanton House, but its first name was always preserved in the memory of old settlers.

"Some five or six years ago the Newcombs disposed of the property to Buckalew & Crippen, and the owl disappeared from its battlement. Buckalew conducted the house for a short time and was succeeded by C. H. Kenny, as landlord, and he by E. A. Vaughn. J. Q. Crippen had, in the meantime, succeeded to Buckalew's interest in the property. During his ownership, the city cut away the hill in front of the house and to get even with the city he graded out from under the building and put in another story—without raising the old building up any—making the hotel four stories high in front. Last summer Mr. Crippen sold the property to P. H. McGarry, who has been at work upon it ever since his purchase, for the purpose of making it a first-class house and had just got it in good condition at the time of the fire. He had built on a splendid dining room, with a number of fine rooms over it and new sample rooms. He had also put in gas fixtures and

lighted the house by gas. Water was supplied by windmill power. The house was painted up nicely—in short everything had been done to make the house attractive in appearance and pleasant for guests. His work for the season was just about completed when destruction came. All regret the misfortune but hope to see a fine structure arise from the ashes.”

TURNER'S OPERA HOUSE.

Besides the Central House, Turner's opera house and George Brown's saloon and billiard hall burned on December 18, 1884, the loss aggregating about \$25,000. The Stevens block was also badly damaged, and what was then the building occupied by the First National Bank was on fire for a time. McGarry's loss was \$11,000, with \$6,000 insurance; the Turners' loss \$10,000, with insurance of \$5,000, and Brown's loss \$4,500, with insurance of \$2,800.

In this connection, it may be said that Turner's opera house was built in 1873-74 by N. M. Turner and A. Vinecore. When W. F. Turner acquired the west half of the block, the building was remodeled, the second and third floors “were transferred into as fine a little opera house as could be found in northern Michigan.” The scenery was ample, elegant and complete. The room was finished in great taste in every respect, and not a resident of the city ever entered the room but with a feeling of pride. It was completed and opened on November 15, 1883, by Minnie Maddern in “The Puritan Maid.”

In 1865-66 Alexander Vinecore built the Bailey House. The first dwelling house was that Levi Camburn built in August, 1862. In 1863 E. K. Wood opened the first stock of groceries, and soon afterwards D. M. Gardner opened the first stock of dry-goods. A man by the name of Starkweather built a small saw-mill about this time, and it was a most valued addition to the enterprises of the village, furnishing, as it did, an abundant supply of lumber for building. From this time the development of the lumber industry and the business interests of the village was rapid.

Although the date of the incorporation of the village by the Legislature is given as 1869, an election of village officials was held as early as November, 1867.

COUNTY SEAT DISCUSSION.

The locating of the county seat at Stanton did not settle the question permanently. Greenville, in the meantime, had grown rapidly in wealth

and population, and certain prominent men from that part of the county earnestly advocated it as the only proper location. At the meetings of the board of supervisors, this question was not infrequently the cause of exciting debate. It is probable, in view of the favorable inducements offered by that village, that action adverse to Stanton would have sooner or later been taken had it not been for the magnanimous conduct of her leading citizens and taxpayers. By special act of the Legislature, the village was permitted to issue bonds to the amount of \$10,000, in order to secure the requisite loan. Accordingly, on May 20, 1879, in compliance with a petition, a town meeting was held and the loan decided upon by a vote of one hundred and twenty-six in the affirmative to three in the negative. The action of the village in this respect and in the matter of issuing its bonds and raising the money was prompt. The court house was completed and dedicated in the summer of 1880, at a cost of \$22,000.

In this connection, it may be said that the bond issue of 1879, by which the people of Stanton had invested \$10,000 in the old court house and for which, after the court house burned, there was the proceeds of the insurance available, to some extent effected the proposed removal of the court house to Greenville after the 1905 fire. The people of Stanton argued, and to good effect, that the removal of the county seat virtually would amount to using money they, themselves, had raised to build a court house in Greenville.

THE FIRE OF 1880.

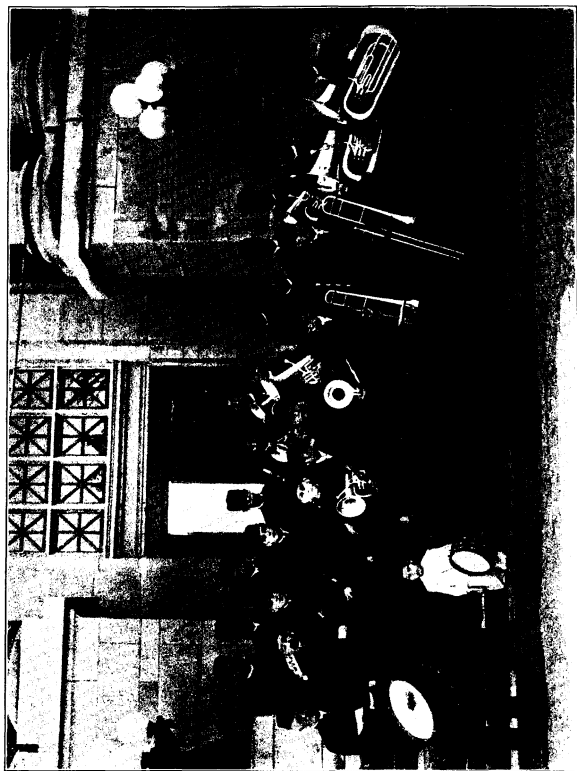
The city of Stanton suffered the effects of a very severe fire which broke out October 12, 1880, and which destroyed about \$60,000 worth of property. An entire business block of sixteen buildings was destroyed in but two hours and a half.

The fire was discovered in Mr. Allen's saloon by Mr. Gideon Dingman, the night watch, and immediately he roused the whole town. The fire department soon arrived on the scene, but in spite of their brave efforts the fire made rapid headway. It spread from the saloon to Harm Smith's new building, and from there it leaped to J. N. Zinkhan's store. The next building, occupied by John Rogers, was partly torn down in an effort to check the fire. When this failed many more buildings were torn down with the same hope, and it was even tried to blow some of them up in order to save some of the goods, but the flames soon drove the men away. However, the mighty efforts put forth could not help but have some effect on the flames,

and to this is due the fact that not all of the town was burned. The loss in the aggregate was very great and could illy be borne by many upon whom it fell. The *Herald* office, including presses and other valuable machinery, type, stock of stationery, etc., was almost a total loss, only a small quantity of job type, a few cases and two job presses being saved. A Miss Lewis, who had just returned from Chicago, with a \$1,000 stock of millinery and fancy goods and placed them in the shop the night before, only saved about \$400 worth of goods. J. M. Zinkham & Company saved most of their stock. The contents of Gardner's safe when opened was all right, but that of M. C. Palmer's was badly damaged. The postoffice, which was also burned, was again established on the south side of Main street, and not a mail was skipped. About one-fifth of J. W. S. Pierson's hardware stock was saved. The bank building was burned, but little was destroyed besides the building. The books and papers were as fresh as if there had been no fire. The bank soon found a new location for its office, as did all the rest who suffered ill effects from the fire. The debris of the burnt district was rapidly removed and building was soon the order of the day. An almost solid brick block was soon erected and now forms one of the finest squares in Stanton.

On February 22, 1885, fire broke out in the rear of the saloon of Seth Reynolds and before it was stopped caused a loss of more than \$30,000 upon which there was nearly \$20,000 insurance. Property owned by J. M. Weatherwax, Mrs. Callegan, E. K. Wood, J. W. S. Pierson, C. B. Nye, L. Corey, D. L. McFadden, G. N. Lunn, H. H. Hinds, Francis Murta, Mrs. Richardson, J. C. Bradford & Company, F. Kaltenbeck, S. E. Slade & Company, George Moss, C. S. Weatherwax & Company and I. Lang was destroyed. On April 7, 1885, fire broke out in the rear of the M. I. Thomas & Company grocery store and before extinguished had destroyed property valued at \$12,000 belonging to O. Fenn, George Howorth, J. C. Bradford, J. Phipps, J. N. Voorbeis, C. Chapin, W. R. Beardsley and M. I. Thomas & Company. The loss of the last named amounted to \$4,000 covered by insurance of \$3,000.

Stanton has had other fires since the one of 1885, but none of them has attained the serious proportions of those fires from 1880 to 1885, inclusive. The plant of Libby, McNeill & Libby, which burned during the winter of 1914-1915, has since been rebuilt, but is operated now only as a salting station, the process plant connected with the old building having been removed to Alma.



STANTON MARINE BAND.

PUBLIC UTILITIES AT STANTON.

Water and light are furnished to the citizens of Stanton from municipal plants, both of which are now worth approximately \$20,000. The water plant was established in 1886 and consists of two large reservoirs into which water flows from driven wells thirty-six feet deep. The pumps of the plant have a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons every twenty-four hours. Water is furnished for domestic use at the rate of \$4 a year. A charge of \$3 a year is made for each toilet and \$3 a year for lawn sprinkling.

The lighting plant was established in 1896 and has a capacity of 100 kilowatts. The charge for light is ten cents for each kilowatt. Both water and light service are exceptionally good. The water and light plants are under the supervision of the city engineer who is at present H. F. Busch.

Few cities of the same population as Stanton have an equal amount of good cement sidewalks. Altogether, there is probably in excess of five miles of sidewalks.

The Stanton fire department consists of a hose wagon and a hook and ladder wagon. The department is a volunteer organization in which the members of the department are paid by the "run." George E. Miller is the present chief of the department.

Forest Hill cemetery, located southwest of Stanton, is owned by the city and managed by a special committee of the board of aldermen, consisting at the present time of Dr. George E. Dakin, C. D. Blumberg and Robert C. Dales. The cemetery is located on a beautiful eminence and is well kept.

The Stanton Forestry Association, organized on January 22, 1909, to co-operate with the Michigan Forestry Association, has worked to promote, encourage and develop the love of trees and tree planting in Stanton and the surrounding country. It seeks to protect young and growing trees, to encourage the farmer to set aside ground for a wood lot and to prevent the needless waste in cutting second growth trees and the careless starting of fires. It also emphasizes the importance of Arbor Day as a notable event. The present officers of the association are as follow: John W. S. Pierson, president; Delos A. Towle, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Jessie Thomas, vice-president. Other officials are Eugene C. Lowry, George W. Thurber, James DeYoung, Joseph C. Hillis and James H. Steere.

STANTON MARINE BAND.

The organization now known as Stanton Marine Band made its first appearance in public on the first Sunday in August, 1901, in connection with

the Knights of the Maccabees memorial services. Following this they were organized under the auspices of Marine Tent No. 49, Knights of the Maccabees, which was the name of the local Maccabee Tent, as Marine Band No. 49, Knights of the Maccabees, with J. C. Hartman as manager and Ray M. King as musical director. The Maccabees bought the band uniform coats and caps and the band agreed to play a concert in front of the hall every meeting night for a year. At the close of their contract with the Maccabees all of the former name was dropped except "Marine" and it has since that time been known as Stanton Marine Band. In the fall of 1902 Mr. King moved to Chicago and Dr. Thomas D. Dow was elected musical director in his stead and has held that position up to the present time. The following were the charter members: John C. Hartman, Ray M. King, Thomas D. Dow, Arthur Smith, J. Edgar Brooks, B. E. Cadwell, C. T. Cadwell, Ray Beers, Ray Dakin, F. Arthur Strouse, O. E. Buccanning, Curtis Ball, Ed. L. Stevenson, C. H. Bachman and Frank E. Joy. The first six are still members. It is now an organization of twenty-five members, owning a full set of first-class instruments, and a library of music worth over three hundred dollars.

Since the records of the city of Stanton are not available prior to 1883 and since one of the journals of the board of aldermen for the period from 1901 to 1907 is not available, a complete list of the public officials of Stanton cannot be given.

The following is a list of the officials of Stanton elected from time to time for the periods from 1883 to 1901, and from 1907 to the present date:

MAYORS.

Oscar Fenn, April 2, 1883; Daniel M. Gardner, April 10, 1884; Alonzo Gilbert, April 9, 1885; Peter F. Clark, April 5, 1886; M. A. Reynolds, April 4, 1887; Gideon A. Hendrick, April 2, 1888; Dora H. Briant, April 1, 1889; Harlow H. Howe, April 7, 1890; James L. Wickes, April 6, 1891; Dr. Norman E. Bachman, April 4, 1892, April 3, 1893; James W. Willett, April 2, 1894; Dr. Norman E. Bachman, April 1, 1895; Patrick J. Devine, April 6, 1896; Levi Camburn, April 5, 1897, April 4, 1898; Frank A. Miller, April 3, 1899, April 2, 1900; Morris W. Stevenson, April 1, 1907, April 6, 1908, April 5, 1909, April 4, 1910 April 1, 1912; Elmer S. Stebbins, April 7, 1913, April 6, 1914; and Christopher C. Messenger, April 5, 1915.

CLERKS.

Gideon A. Hendrick, April 2, 1883, April 10, 1884, April 9, 1885; Judson E. Miller, April 5, 1886, April 4, 1887; Frederick Lagrange, April 2, 1888; Ashley J. Miller, April 1, 1889; Gideon A. Hendrick, April 4, 1890; William A. Briggs, April 6, 1891; William T. Mummery, April 4, 1892; Elmer S. Stebbins, April 3, 1893; Zenos Y. Coleman, April 2, 1894, April 1, 1895, April 6, 1896; David H. Briant, April 5, 1897, April 4, 1898; Frank E. Joy, April 3, 1899, April 2, 1900; Thomas D. Dow, April 1, 1907; Reuben W. Rhoades, April 6, 1908; April 6, 1909; Clyde H. Lee, April 4, 1910, April 3, 1911; James W. Phillips, April 1, 1912, April 7, 1913; H. W. Wiedenhoeft, April 6, 1914; Reuben W. Rhoades, April 5, 1915.

PROMINENT EARLY CITIZENS.

Perhaps the most prominent of the earlier citizens of Stanton was the late Frank Wayland Higgins, one time governor of New York. But he had not been thus honored by the people of the Empire state at the time of his residence in Stanton. Then he was just out of a commercial school and came west to make his first venture in business. In 1876 he opened a shoe store near the corner where Smith Brothers are now located and later embarked in the general mercantile business in the Palace block. Frank W. Higgins was born at Rushford, Allegany county, New York, August 18, 1856, of English stock that traced its ancestry back to the time of Edward I. He was the son of Orrin Thrall and Lucia Cornelia (Hapgood) Higgins, the former of whom was a prosperous business man. Frank Wayland Higgins was educated at Rushford Academy, Riverview Military Academy and at a commercial college. Having traveled extensively, young Higgins had a brief experience in business at Chicago and Denver and then settled down at Stanton, Michigan. His father induced him to leave Stanton in 1879 and he then entered his father's office at Olean, New York. Governor Higgins was not quite twenty years old when he arrived in Stanton and he was only twenty-three when he left the village. He made a large success in business. In 1893, he was elected a state senator from the fiftieth New York district and continued to serve as a state senator until 1902 when he was elected lieutenant-governor. In 1904, he was elected to the highest office within the gift of the people of New York state, that of governor and served one term. Governor Higgins died at Olean, New York, February

12, 1907, as the result of illness caused from exposure at the inauguration of Governor, now Justice, Hughes of the United States Supreme Court, his successor.

The lumber days of Stanton and Montcalm county produced numerous men who made good in a large way. Few of these men are living today and fewer still made this city their permanent home after prosperity had smiled upon them in a large way. Generally they sought new fields where they might continue in the same business or where the variety of commercial opportunities was wider than Stanton had to offer after the lumber was gone. Among these men, residents at one time of Stanton or the immediate vicinity were Edwin K. Wood, John M. Weatherwax, Giles Gilbert, Nelson M. and William F. Turner, Oscar Fenn, Daniel M. Gardner, Lorenzo Corey, George F. Case and James W. Willett.

JOHN MARTIN WEATHERWAX.

John Martin Weatherwax was born in Peru, Clinton county, New York, February 14, 1827, the son of Jacob and Amice (Ketchum) Weatherwax. His parents moved to Michigan, when he was a mere lad and settled near Adrian. When he was twenty-two years old, he accompanied a cousin to Washtenaw county and there met Doctor Post with whom he read medicine for the next three years. After finishing his medical education, he began the practice in Lenawee county but was taken sick at the end of two years and returned home. He never returned to the practice of medicine but engaged in the lumber business at Grand Rapids with his brother. After working for a time in the construction of a railroad, he bought an interest in his brother's business. The business was somewhat crippled by the depression of 1858-59.

At the breaking out of the Civil War, John M. Weatherwax was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Second Michigan Cavalry under Capt. R. A. Alger and served three years and three months.

After the war, Captain Weatherwax, as he was familiarly known, invested heavily in pine lands in Michigan. In 1874, he built a large mill in Evergreen, Montcalm county, but in the meantime operated a store at Lowell in Kent county. Later, he sold the Lowell store. Captain Weatherwax continued to operate the mill on Fish creek, in Evergreen township, until 1885 when he went to Gray's Harbor, Washington, built a mill and bought large holdings in real estate in the village of Aberdeen. Captain Weatherwax was a wealthy man when he left Stanton but his mill venture in

the west was not very successful. His real estate holdings, however, made up for other losses. He was married in 1864 to Mattie E. Keys, of Grand Rapids, by whom four children, three sons and a daughter, were born. Mrs. Weatherwax died in September, 1892, and her husband some years later in Stanton. Both are buried in Grand Rapids.

NELSON M. TURNER.

Nelson M. Turner, an early merchant and lumberman, of Stanton, was born at Winfield, New York, December 10, 1817, and died on May 17, 1874. His father had served as a member of the New York state constitutional convention and was a machinist by trade. The family settled in North Fairfield, Ohio, in 1838, and the father died there in 1850. In 1852, the family moved to Hillsdale county, Michigan, where with his brother, William, he engaged in the lumber business. Later, they manufactured furniture at Mason, in Ingham county, for four years, and in 1868, Nelson M. Turner moved to Stanton. Here he became the senior member of the firm of Turner Brothers, pine land and saw-mill owners; member of the firm of Kent & Turner, furniture manufacturers; Turner Brothers, shingle merchants, and the builder and half owner of the Turner-Vincore block.

On the day of Mr. Turner's burial, business in Stanton was suspended and the town gave token of its mourning for one of its most beloved and valuable citizens. "In his death," read an obituary notice at the time, "Stanton has lost one of its best and most influential citizens; a man of great energy and perseverance, he has added greatly to the material wealth of the village, and, in generosity, has liberally contributed to every moral and Christian enterprise."

Nelson M. Turner was a director and a promoter of the railroad from Ionia to Stanton. He was married on January 15, 1838, to Harriett N. Sutton and by her had six children.

WILLIAM F. TURNER.

William F. Turner, a younger brother of Nelson M. Turner, was also prominent in the early history of Stanton as a merchant and manufacturer. He was born at Homer, Courtland county, New York, December 10, 1824. William F. Turner came to Stanton in 1866 and for many years operated a shingle mill, first in partnership with his brother and after the brother's death, alone. Mr. Turner served as supervisor of Sidney township, a por-

tion of Stanton, nine years and during seven of the nine years was chairman of the board. He also served two terms as a member of the school board and as postmaster in Hillsdale county before coming to Montcalm.

On February 14, 1849, William F. Turner was married to Salome Tuttle, who was drowned at Clear Lake, Indiana, July 4, 1859. In November, 1861, he was married to Adelaide E. Campbell. Mr. Turner was a Mason, Whig, Free Soiler and Republican. He died on September 2, 1904.

GILES GILBERT.

Giles Gilbert, another well-known lumberman of Stanton a generation ago, was born in Wyoming county, New York, September 7, 1840, the youngest of eight children born to Hiram and Maria Gilbert. Young Gilbert's parents were poor but he was permitted to attend the Genesee Conference Seminary and after leaving school worked on the farm until the Civil War broke out when he enlisted in the Seventeenth Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry. He was discharged after the battle of Chancellorsville in 1863 and came to Stanton, Michigan, investing his savings with E. K. Wood in the mercantile business.

This business soon embraced extensive lumbering increasing steadily until 1874 when Mr. Gilbert established a mill at Derby lake, in Sidney township. Subsequently, he bought the interest of Mr. Wood and operated until about 1882 when he went to Mecosta, a small village in Mecosta county and engaged in lumber operations with A. W. Wright and others. After the timber was cut out, he moved to Duluth, Minnesota, where he became interested in iron ore lands with Orrin T. Higgins, the father of the late Gov. Frank Wayland Higgins, of New York. Until three or four years ago when his death occurred he was heavily interested at Duluth. In the meantime, he had invested in Oregon lands, of which his sons, Wells and Frank Gilbert, had charge. Mr. Gilbert was possessed of a vast fortune at the time of his death. In April, 1868, Mr. Gilbert was married to Frances Smith, to whom there were three children born. The daughter, now married, lives at the old home in Duluth.

OSCAR FENN.

Oscar Fenn, once a well-known farmer and lumberman of Stanton, was born in Medina county, Ohio, June 25, 1836, the son of Daniel D. and Adaline (Gardner) Fenn. Fenn lived on a farm in Ohio until 1866 when he removed to Stanton and engaged in the dry goods and grocery trade as a

clerk for D. M. Gardner. After six months, he was taken into the business as a partner and so continued until 1872 when he sold his interest and formed a co-partnership with E. D. Finch for the real-estate business. In the fall of 1872, he was elected register of deeds and re-elected in 1874, holding the office two terms. In 1874, he abandoned the real-estate business and engaged in the manufacture of shingles.

In addition to the office of register of deeds, Mr. Fenn was also township treasurer three years, president of the village, member of the board of village trustees, member of the school board and Republican county chairman in 1876. He was judge of probate of the county at the time of his death.

Oscar Fenn was married on March 13, 1861, to Salina E. Wilson, who died on March 10, 1872, leaving two children. Mr. Fenn was married, secondly November 6, 1873, to Kate C. Wallace, of Birmingham, Michigan. The Fenn family, including Mr. Fenn, were active in the Congregational church.

GEORGE F. CASE.

George F. Case, who operated a shingle mill in Montcalm county for many years, and who resided for a time at Stanton, was born near St. Albans, Franklin county, Vermont, January 20, 1830, the son of Truman and Melinda (Freeman) Case. In 1846, he removed with the Case family to Jackson, Michigan, and four years later was married to Mary E. Freeman. Afterward, he engaged in the lumber business at Greenville, but in 1863 removed to Stanton.

Mr. Case was a delegate from Montcalm county to the constitutional convention of 1867 and served altogether twelve years as a member of the board of supervisors. He also held the offices of justice of the peace and road commissioner. Case was a well-known temperance worker in his day, a Mason, Odd Fellow, Baptist and Republican.

DANIEL M. GARDNER.

Daniel M. Gardner, old-time merchant and lumber manufacturer of Stanton was a native of Skaneateles, New York, January 19, 1835. After the death of his father in 1835, Mr. Gardner lived with a brother near Skaneateles until twenty years old, starting to Michigan in 1856. He remained at Cascade, near Grand Rapids, for ten years. In 1866, he settled at Stanton, then a small settlement in the pine forests. At Stanton, he built

a store where he carried on a general mercantile trade and a little later established a large mill six miles from Stanton. Mr. Gardner was chosen postmaster and continued in the office for about twenty-five years. As a matter of fact, Stanton had had only three postmasters before Mr. Gardner. The office was filled by Levi Camburn from March 10, 1862, to December 20, 1864, when Captain J. P. Beers was appointed. George A. Smith was appointed on October 25, 1866, and Daniel M. Gardner, July 15, 1867. Mr. Gardner contributed liberally to the construction of the railroad from Stanton to Ionia.

On October 1, 1867, Mr. Gardner was married to Polly Gardner, the daughter of a prominent farmer of Medina, Ohio. They had three children. Mr. Gardner was a Republican in politics.

LORENZO COREY.

Lorenzo Corey, who came to Stanton in 1875 as a common laborer, enjoyed a unique and almost unequalled success in the history of the lumber industry in the vicinity of Stanton. He began the lumber business with little or no capital but with the co-operation of local manufacturers was soon heavily engaged. Subsequently, he became interested in the firm of Herdman, Harland & Company, of Zanesville, Ohio, and he was given an interest in the firm. He was accustomed to pay above the conservative prices for lumber, land and shingles but dealt on a rising market and thus became very wealthy. After operating at Stanton until the lumber industry ceased to be profitable, he went to New Decatur, Alabama, and there lost considerable money in townsite speculations. Upon returning to Michigan, he settled at Detroit where he lost more money in the "River Rouge" enterprise. Still later he removed to Toledo, Ohio.

MONTGOMERY A. REYNOLDS.

Montgomery A. Reynolds, now secretary of the National Millers' Association, with headquarters in Chicago, was one of the early merchants of Stanton. Mr. Reynolds was a native of Ulster county, New York, where he was born on October 29, 1850, and was of German and English parentage. He was reared on the farm and obtained only a common-school education. After working as an apprentice to a stonemason for two years, he came west to Stanton in 1869 and was employed in the general store of the

venerable H. H. Hinds, now living in Stanton and of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this work.

When Mr. Reynolds had completed four years in the service of Mr. Hinds, he invested his savings in the drug and grocery business and for two years was a member of the firm of Reynolds & Hawley. He then sold out and in August, 1876, joined Turner Brothers in building the first grist-mill in Stanton. Subsequently, he purchased the Turner interests in the business and operated the mill himself.

During his residence at Stanton, Montgomery A. Reynolds served as township treasurer and village treasurer. He belonged to the Knights of Honor and was assistant dictator of the order. Politically, he was identified with the Republican party. Mr. Reynolds married Emma S. Turner, daughter of Nelson M. Turner.

CLARENCE W. CHAPIN.

Clarence W. Chapin, one of the early bankers of Stanton, deserves notice in any history of the Montcalm county seat. Mr. Chapin was born in Livingston county, New York, January 23, 1842, and when two years old removed with his parents to the wild timber lands of Ingham county, Michigan. He was reared amidst pioneer surroundings, but when eighteen accepted a position as clerk in the mercantile store of S. W. Webber, of Lyons, where he remained seven years. At the end of seven years, Mr. Webber engaged in the banking business and Chapin remained with him two years longer.

Having spent three years in Oregon for the benefit of his health, Mr. Chapin returned to Michigan in 1873 and with P. R. Howe started a bank at Stanton. After six months, Mr. Howe sold his interests to Oscar Webber and for a time the institution was owned and managed under the firm name of Webber & Chapin. During this period, Mr. Webber resided at Ionia and Mr. Chapin had sole charge of the bank.

Clarence W. Chapin was a Democrat but never active. He was not a member of any church, though in sympathy with church work. On August 31, 1874, he was married to Alice E. Bennett, the daughter of Horace Bennett of Greenville. Mr. Chapin died in Ypsilanti.

JACOB WEATHERWAX.

Jacob Weatherwax, a brother of John M. Weatherwax, came from Georgetown to Stanton and for a number of years was an insurance agent in

Stanton. He emigrated to the West and was buried at Aberdeen, Washington. Jacob Weatherwax entered the army on October 3, 1863, at Georgetown, as sergeant of Company M, Tenth Cavalry, and was promoted to second lieutenant, January 22, 1864.

E. D. HAWLEY.

E. D. Hawley, one of the early merchants of Stanton, engaged in the mercantile business of what is now the hotel corner in the spring of 1874 under the firm name of Reynolds & Hawley, the other member of the firm being Montgomery A. Reynolds. Mr. Hawley soon bought out Mr. Reynolds and ran the business alone for a time. He then took William B. Pratt into the business as a partner and later bought out Pratt's interest and formed a partnership with William H. Owen. Subsequently, Mr. Hawley bought out Mr. Owen and formed a stock company known as the E. D. Hawley Company. Hawley then purchased the real estate where are now located the store of Smith Brothers and the Cummins' drug store and until his death occupied the building on this site erected by John M. Weatherwax. After Hawley's death on August 14, 1903, a part of the business was sold to Smith Brothers and the remainder to E. B. Swift, who, in turn, sold it to Mr. Cummins, the present owner.

JAMES W. WILLETT.

James W. Willett was born in the city of Auburn, New York, March 13, 1839. At the age of seventeen he came to Michigan, locating in the town of North Plains, Ionia county. He learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, which he followed for several years. Upon the breaking out of the Civil War, he enlisted in Berdan's Sharpshooters, and went to the front. He remained in the service until 1864, when he returned to North Plains and engaged in farming.

In 1872, in company with his brother, Mr. Willett engaged in the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds in the village of Muir. Here he suffered the loss of his property by fire. In 1876 he removed to Stanton, where he engaged in the manufacture and sale of lumber. In 1864 he was married to Mary Annette, daughter of the Hon. G. W. Germain, a pioneer of North Plains. To this union were born six children.

During his residence in Stanton Mr. Willett identified himself with its growth and development. In 1894 he was chosen mayor of the city. In

1904 Mr. Willett removed to Ontonagon county where he engaged in lumbering. His death occurred on October 17, 1906.

THOMAS NICHOLS STEVENS.

Capt. Thomas Nichols Stevens, son of David Stevens (1795-1878) and Nancy Nichols Stevens (1799-1848), was born at Varysburg, New York, May 6, 1835. In 1852, a motherless lad of seventeen, he went to Wisconsin, where he lived at Oconomowoc, Columbus, Stevens Point, and New Lisbon. On January 31, 1857, he was married to Caroline E. Silsbee, of Columbus, Wisconsin. She was the daughter of Thomas Silsbee (1807-1864) and Jane Howard Silsbee (1810-1885).

From Oconomowoc Mr. Stevens went as captain of Company C, Twenty-eighth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry to Milwaukee to be mustered in for service in the War of the Rebellion and served until the close of the war in 1865.

Early in 1866 Captain Stevens removed with his family to Greenville, Michigan, to engage in the abstract business with E. H. Jones, who was his lifelong friend, and business partner for many years. In 1879, he made Stanton his home, being register of deeds from 1879 to 1888 and managing in addition his abstract business until his retirement from actual business in 1906, after forty years of active business; selling the abstracts to his son-in-law, Delos A. Towle.

In politics Captain Stevens was a Republican, and in 1880 was a delegate from the seventh district to the Republican national convention in Chicago. He was a member of the Congregational church of which he was treasurer at the time of his death; a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, of the Army of the Tennessee, of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, and was president of his regimental association, the Twenty-eighth Wisconsin.

His death came on January 19, 1908, at his home in Stanton, and the burial was in the family lot in Greenville. He had five children: Howard S., died in 1858; Mrs. Lu E. Towle, of Stanton; Mrs. Mary F. Barnes, of Belding; Carolyn N., died in 1901; Mrs. Bertha Walker, of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

EDWIN K. WOOD.

Edwin K. Wood, one of the most successful lumber dealers who ever lived in Montcalm county and who is now living in California, was born in

Wyoming county, New York, in 1840. His early life was spent on a farm, from which work he was called by Father Abraham, enlisting in May, 1861, as a private soldier in Company K, Seventeenth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry. He served until the regiment was discharged in 1863. Coming to Michigan in 1865 in company with Giles Gilbert, they built several mills on the state road running north and south through Stanton. They invested some of their earnings in pine lands in the vicinity of Stanton and these lands became very profitable. They also operated a store in Stanton under the firm name of Wood & Gilbert. When Gilbert sold out to Wood, Mr. Wood retained the store and carried a line of drugs, groceries and provisions. Later he bought large tracts of timber land between Stanton and the present village of McBride and operated a shingle mill. His large mill was located at a place called at the time Wood's Mills until 1883 and during this period he amassed a fortune of approximately a quarter of a million dollars. Mr. Wood sold the land, comprising eight hundred acres, to S. Perry Youngs in 1883 and then engaged in business at Gray's Harbor, Washington and San Francisco, California, with S. E. Slade, under the firm name of the S. E. Slade Lumber Company. Wood remained at Stanton a few years and then removed to California. In the meantime, he had operated rather extensively at Town Line lake, in Cato township. After he had sold out at Stanton, he lived for a short time on a large farm near McBride. He also owned another in Douglass township. Mr. Wood now lives at Oakland, California. He has been immensely successful in the West, adding many mills and lumber yards to his holdings. He owns an interest in a fleet of vessels and gets the maximum profit from his operations. Edwin K. Wood is a man of sterling qualities and respected for his well-known habits of fair and honest dealing and his generous heart. Having bought out S. E. Slade, Mr. Wood's business has been carried on for many years under the firm name of the E. K. Wood Lumber Company.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

CITY OF GREENVILLE.

The history of Greenville, the first city in Montcalm county, first in origin, first in population, first in manufacture and first in wealth, dates from the landing, in 1844, of John Green, its first settler and founder, whose name it has always borne during the three score years and ten of its existence; not a long time in the life of a community, but sufficient to carry into the great beyond the rugged pioneers who blazed the trail and laid the foundations of the beautiful little metropolis of Montcalm.

Michigan had been admitted into the Union seven years when John Green left his home in Fulton county, New York, and, with his face turned to the westward, journeyed to the then wilds of Michigan, traveling by canal and railroad as far as Jackson, Michigan, down the Grand river by boat and thence by wagon to Otisco, Ionia county, and in June, together with others, entered upon the government lands on section 9 in the township of Eureka, which now constitutes a part of the city of Greenville, and upon which he erected the first house in which he and his family resided.

While John Green was the first settler and the founder of Greenville, he was not the first purchaser of land within the boundaries of the present city. Five years previous to his coming, Charles S. D. Harroun purchased from the United States seventy-one and fifteen hundredths acres embracing that part of the city where the Pere Marquette depot now stands and bordering on Flat river. Mr. Harroun came to Michigan from Franklin county, New York, in 1836, via Buffalo and Detroit, and thence to Portland and Lyons, Ionia county, and later to the vicinity of Greenville, being directly and intimately associated with the early history of Greenville, where he was a familiar and respected figure until his death, in 1915, at the ripe old age of ninety-three, in full possession of his faculties up to the time of his death, a flattering commentary on the virtue and ruggedness of the pioneer character. A year or so preceding his death, he gave a most interesting and graphic review of the early history and conditions in Greenville. It was in the form of an interview with Mrs. O. W. Green, which was so ably edited and reported by Mrs. Green at a meeting of the Pioneer Society in 1914, that a

quotation therefrom at this time will not only preserve this authentic report but be of much historical interest to the present generation. When he arrived in Detroit it was but a small village. His journey from Detroit is interesting and in decided and strange contrast with the methods of transportation that are open to, and enjoyed by, the people now coming and going from Greenville with its two lines of railroad and its state reward roads in every direction.

The roads leading out of Detroit were so rough and muddy that at the end of the first day's journey he and the settlers coming out with him could still obtain a pretty distinct view of the city of Detroit behind them. He says of these roads that they were sure enough railroads, only that the rails were laid crosswise, instead of lengthwise, and that it took rails and the united efforts of these early settlers to pry the wagons out of the mud for miles after Detroit had long disappeared from view. He came first to Portland, soon afterward going to Lyons, where he learned the carpenter's trade, working at it for some time, and doing different kinds of work as it came to him to do. He worked at one time for a Mr. Baldwin, who was destined afterward to give his name to Baldwin lake, in this city. While in the vicinity of Lyons he fell a victim to that dread malady, ague, and as a result this young pioneer was not only real sick, but, for the first time since leaving his home in New York, homesick. In 1838 he came up to what was then known as the Flat River district, but now known as Otisco. If he had listened to the advice of one Mr. Jenks he would not have come to the Flat River district, for this early pioneer argued that according to his notion "Flat river must run through a flat country and a flat country meant fever and ague; wherefore that a man going there would be laid flat on his back and would have to be fetched home in the end," and I am very certain that the early comers who settled on Flat river recognized the perfect soundness of this logic.

After Mr. Harroun's earlier experience with the public highways of Michigan, when he reached the Flat River district, or, as we know it now, Otisco township, there were no roads in evidence—nothing but the ancient highways, long before worn smooth and firm by the feet of the innumerable Indians who had passed over them long before the palefaces came; and right here I wish to turn aside for a little and speak of these trails, quoting from an article written sometime since on these highways by E. H. Jones, a pioneer citizen of this city, now living in Denver, Colorado.

He says these Indian trails ran in all directions in the vicinity of Green-

ville and were used by our early settlers as footpaths. The trail from Greenville to Wolverton Plains was not only the most direct, but by far the best footpath leading north and west from Greenville and it was not strange that it was the route taken by all who were going or coming between the Underhill mills and Wolverton Plains to and from Greenville. During the lumber rafting season, the tracks of the raftmen's spiked boots were much in evidence along this trail. This was a part of the up-river trail which struck this city on the south line near the old brick yard, running nearly parallel with the bank of the river until it reached the high bank northeast of the Pere Marquette depot; thence northwesterly until it reached the bend in the river it followed a circuitous course till it led to Turk lake, where in the early days the Indians had one of their favorite camping grounds. From that point it led in a northeasterly direction to Dickerson lakes. This up-river trail was crossed by what was known as the Saginaw and Pentwater trails just above the Washington street bridge at the foot of the Baldwin rapids; from there, it followed a sag between Cass and Washington streets, passing in its course about midway between the Watson house and barn, thence across the ground occupied by the northern store of the group now used by Z. C. Bohrer; crossing Lafayette street, it passed over the ground now occupied by the Eureka block, then in the direction of the Methodist Episcopal church and the residence of the late David Eliot, to the river, which it followed to the site of the Indian village located about a quarter of a mile above the site of the old Merritt mill; thence northwesterly to Bass lake, in the township of Spencer; thence in almost an air line to the point where Pentwater now stands, on Lake Michigan. This Saginaw and Pentwater trail is by far the most important of these early highways and Mr. Jones suggests that it might be well to mark this trail, in this time of marking places where great events have occurred. There can be no doubt that many a war party passed over this ancient trail when the Chippewas lived in the Saginaw region, and the Pioneer Society of Greenville should be grateful to Mr. Jones for the forethought which prompted him to prepare for the State Historical Society of Michigan, a map of these various Indian trails in this county. So much for the early roads for these first Americans.

Now when Mr. Harroun came to Greenville for the first time in the fall of 1838 he traversed one of these numerous Indian trails, leading him by what is now known as Shaws Corners in Otisco township, down by Wabasis creek and from there by winding ways, or, as he expresses it, "angling through to the site of this city." Prompted by the desire to purchase govern-

ment land, he wished to see the wild land in this region before purchasing. He came up here to look around, came alone and returned the same day. The distance traversed was eight miles each way. Flat river pursued its same circuitous way—the same Flat river that was later to bear away on its current the millions of feet of lumber in logs to the great mills in this and other vicinities. And to the north of this river were thousands of acres of great pine stretching away far to the north, constituting a part of what is known to have been a considerable portion of the great pine belt of the Lower Peninsula.

On the south side of the river was a fairly level stretch of land, with scattered growth of oak—with here and there a pine and an occasional beech and maple; here and there were open spaces, Mr. Harroun thinks due to early fires or possibly due to the fashioning of nature. The place was an absolute wilderness; there was not a settler about here, no white families between here and the mouth of the Flat river, or Lowell. There was no life to be seen but the wild life of the woods, or an occasional Indian who might chance to be passing on the trail.

The Indians were the Ottawas, a sprinkling of Ojibwas, or, anglicized, the Chippewas and an occasional Pottowatomie. Perhaps in this immediate vicinity they numbered one hundred or, at the very outside, one hundred fifty. They spoke the same dialect readily, understanding each other without the aid of interpreters. They had intermarried and the tribal distinction had in a great measure disappeared. Doubtless some of the older men had fought as allies of the British against the Americans, for they had once belonged to a brave, intrepid league of Indians who had for a hundred years exercised an important influence over the destinies of the great Northwest, but in this latter time they had, by their defeat and consequent humiliation, degenerated from the type of true warlike Indians, so graphically represented in the histories of Parkman and the romances of Cooper, and were now the broken, spiritless remnant of a once great people.

They had by the provisions of the treaty of Washington, enacted in 1836, sold their lands in Michigan. This sale included the lands in Keene, Orleans and Otisco townships in Ionia county and at least four-fifths of the present Montcalm county, reserving at the same time immense tracts in the far wilds of northern Michigan. The government had given them the right to the use of all their lands, once their own, till they were wanted for actual settlement or had passed from the ownership of the government to individual purchasers; so they remained here, but when the advancing tide of settlers

came, as they had agreed in their treaties, they went readily, but regretfully, to their new homes in the wilderness of northern Michigan.

The few scattering Indians about here when Mr. Harroun came were perhaps identical with what were later called the Blacksmith Indians, living up the river. I cannot be certain of this, but the Indians he saw first when he visited Greenville hunted and fished over this territory, planting their patches of corn at the mouth of Flat river where Lowell now stands. They picked the wild berries, made sugar from the maple trees, roaming about from place to place, as better fishing and hunting demanded. John Wabasis was their chief, a son of the great chief, Wabasis, he of legendary fame. Now the simple truth behind the legend is, he was one of the Ottawa delegation who visited Washington in 1836 and who signed the treaty by which the United States obtained the title to their lands; by so doing incurred the anger of his tribe; was accused of keeping an undue proportion of the money paid for the lands, some eighteen thousand dollars, so he was punished by being restricted to certain limits at Wabasis lake, to go beyond which was death. There, with his family, he lived for several years until, in supposed safety, he visited a pow-wow, held in the present township of Plainfield, Kent county. He was then summarily despatched with a club by one Neogamah. What he did with his ill-gotten gold was never known, but from that time to this, adventurous boys of Greenville have dug for this pot of gold buried on the banks of Wabasis lake with an ardor worthy a better cause.

These Indians, haunting their old hunting grounds, were of actual service to the early settlers, for they brought to their doors many saddles of venison and a large quantity of maple sugar, which, neatly packed in mococks, was offered for sale at a low price. They also rendered important service in assisting to rid the locality of wolves which killed the sheep of the early settlers. The records show that Hiram Rossman was paid as high as eight dollars for bounty for a wolf scalp. In 1850 to 1860 over one thousand three hundred dollars was paid for wolf scalps alone, the Indians receiving a good proportion of this county money. In passing, I recall an incident told me by J. J. Shearer concerning one of them. He was on a visit out at his farm, situated northwest of Greenville. On looking out, he saw at the front of the house an Indian pony, hobbled, and at the same time an Indian lying on the ground. He did not at first recognize him, but, looking attentively at him, he found it to be an old acquaintance of an earlier day, and, questioning him, found him to be ill and in distress and poverty. He said to him, "Put your pony in my pasture, choose for yourself where you will stay; you

are welcome to what you need; stay here as long as you please, for this land was yours long, long before it became mine."

Now one year later, in the fall of 1838, Mr. Harroun was one of a party of six men, one of whom was a practical surveyor, who had taken the job of surveying ten townships in what was then the unsurveyed territory about the north of this place. The survey of only five townships was accomplished, two of these being Otisco and Eureka. Three of the party were brothers named Niles, for whom the city of Niles was named. Four of the men worked on the lines, while two cooked and did other necessary work. Bread had to be made every day, without yeast and no conveniences for bread-making. The grease from the pork was scrupulously saved to be used for shortening. Dry wood was to be had in abundance and the work was done in comparative comfort till the depth of snow made it impossible to keep the pack horses longer in the woods, so the work had to be abandoned for the winter.

After some time the survey was sent to Washington and accepted, plats made of it, and it was ready for market. The land office was then in Ionia and the price of the land, one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. Mr. Harroun thinks it would puzzle a good woodsman to follow some of the lines the government paid for at that time. A short time after this, Mr. Harroun, thinking the land was cheap, purchased a tract of it on Flat river, where the Pere Marquette depot now stands, and the old record reads, "Purchased from the government by Charles S. Harroun 71.15 acres, August 9, 1839," this being the first recorded purchase of land in Montcalm county. Five years passed before John Green, the first settler, came to Greenville, in 1844, coming from the state of New York by canal and cars as far as Jackson, down Grand river by boat and by wagon to Otisco and this place. Not a white inhabitant was to be seen and one must go six miles to find a neighbor. Now perhaps this neighbor might have been at that time John Shaw, in Otisco township, who had come a little later than Mr. Harroun, in 1839, who lived at Shaw's Corners, or it might have been Stephen K. Warren, or R. K. Divine, who had located in Eureka township in 1843. At all events, some of these very neighbors were at the wedding of his daughter, which occurred one year later, when Deborah, daughter of John Green, was married to Abram Roosa, of Otisco, in the city of Greenville, the first wedding which took place here.

The history of the John Green family is the most familiar of the early settlers. His daughter, Josephine, was the first white child born in Green-

ville. He associated himself with Samuel Demarest and his two sons, Clark and Samuel, and later Josiah Russell, and built the first saw-mill upon what is called the upper or Middleton dam.

John Green died in 1855 and was buried in the city which he founded and which now does honor to his memory in the name it bears.

The second pioneer to arrive was Josiah Russell, who came in November, 1844, and found a temporary home with Mr. Green until the following fall. Judge Russell, as he was familiarly known, was the first judge of the county court. The early Russell home still stands and is situated on South Webster street, directly north of the Fred Bremer home at the northeast corner of Washington and Webster streets, though formerly it stood where now stands the residence of Charles E. Henry, on East Washington street.

Judge Russell was deputy postmaster under Abel French, who was Greenville's first postmaster, his commission bearing date of January 20, 1848.

Among the early settlers and pioneers who were associated in the early building of Greenville were, Thomas Myers (1845), the first millwright; George VanNess (1845), a carpenter by trade; Dr. Thomas Green (1845), brother of John and the first physician; John Loucks (1845); George Loucks (1847); Abram Roosa (1845), the first blacksmith, who, the same year, married Deborah Green, daughter of John Green; William Weed (1845); Henry M. Moore (1846), merchant. In 1851 the latter was representative in the state Legislature; he had been active in the organization of the county the year previous and, while in the Legislature, secured the passage of the law locating the county seat at Greenville, where it remained for ten years.

Along at about this same period came Nelson Robison, James McCready, Levi Mackley, Hiram Slawson, Roger Vanderhoff and son William, E. M. Stearns, William Backus, Morton Shearer, Stephen Rossman, Joseph J. Shearer, Joseph Burgess, Nathaniel Slaughter, Manning Rutan, William M. Crane, Elijah Coffren, D. C. Moore, Samuel and Uriah Stout, Charles C. Ellsworth (the first lawyer and first village president), Rufus K. Moore, Joseph Griffith, John Lewis (one of the earliest lawyers who became a leader in the community), E. B. Edwards, Milo Blair (who established the first newspaper), Dr. W. H. Ellsworth, an early physician, as were also Doctors Sprague, Richardson, Chamberlain and Slawson. Myron Rider, judge of probate, Hiram Rossman, Bedford Burch, Nathan F. Case and Joel Sanders are all names familiar with the older residents, many of whose descendants still reside in Greenville and locality and whose early activities were so closely

identified with the development of the city that their memories have been perpetuated.

The early settlers devoted their attentions to clearing up the land and manufacturing the pine into lumber. And until the late eighties Greenville was a busy, thriving lumber town. Each spring there floated down Flat river millions of feet of pine logs and the lumber jack was always in evidence.

The old Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroad, now a part of the Pere Marquette, was the first railroad to be built into Greenville; this important event occurred in 1871, at which time Greenville was also incorporated as a city, L. Judd Macomber being its first mayor. With the passing of the lumber industry, the capital and industry of the city were employed in other lines of manufacture, and at this time it is a busy, happy, prosperous manufacturing city of more than five thousand, known as the "City of Industries," with keen, active, successful men at the head of their various institutions. Its two large refrigerator factories sell their products all over the world; the Moore Plow and Implement Company enjoys an international trade in plows, gasoline engines and agricultural implements; the C. T. Wright Engine Company and the Greenville Implement Company do a large business; R. J. Tower Iron Works, with its Tower edgers and Gordon Hollow Blast grates, is known in the lumber world. Much is expected of the Tower Motor Truck Company and the Hart Manufacturing Company, both of which are newly organized corporations. The Greenville Floral Company does a large and constantly-increasing business, while the Greenville Glove Company, Greenville Fixture Company and other concerns add to the business and manufacturing activities of Greenville. With the advent of the Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon railroad, a part of the Grand Trunk system, making a second railroad and affording competitive shipping facilities, began the later development of Greenville. At about this same time came the installation of a complete city waterworks system, furnishing to the citizens pure water, pumped from wells. Then came the first electric light company and the lighting of the city by arc lamps, which are now to be supplanted by the modern boulevard lights.

It was in 1910, under Mayor Charles H. Gibson, that the city had its first pavement, which is being added to from year to year, so that Greenville is keeping pace with the requirements and demands of the times and is modern and up-to-date with all its public improvements. Its streets, schools, churches and public utilities are ably managed and are a credit to the community and the equal of any found in cities of this class.

With the clearing of the lands adjacent to Greenville and the elimination of the pine, not only here but throughout Michigan, the lands have been converted into fertile farms, upon which are raised the finest potatoes in all the land. Greenville is the center from which the bulk of the Michigan potato crop is handled. Millions of bushels are handled through the Greenville buyers, who have buying and loading stations and warehouses throughout the potato belt, and sell and distribute the produce throughout the United States, as far east as the Atlantic seaboard and as far south as the Gulf of Mexico.

The public spirit of Greenville's citizens is everywhere apparent. Its homes are modern, well kept, with beautiful grounds and shrubbery; its streets are lined with magnificent maple shade trees; within its confines lie Baldwin and Manoka lakes, with a beautiful boulevard drive surrounding them; the magnificent, fire-proof, one-hundred-thousand-dollar high school, with library gymnasium and auditorium, is equal to the best. Its church societies have fine buildings and are generously supported, the following denominations being represented: Congregational, Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal, Free Methodist, Baptist, Advent, Lutheran and Christian Science. The different fraternal organizations, led by the Masonic and Knights of Pythias orders, are in a flourishing condition. The commercial organizations are active and harmonious and the spirit of contentment abides with the people.

The span from the first mayor, L. Judd Macomber, to the present mayor, Fred E. Ranney, marks and measures the corporate life of the city; and likewise, the span from the first postmaster, Abel French, to the present popular postmaster, Percy Edsall, measures the life of this community, which is ever pressing forward, ready and equipped to meet the future because of the inspirations of the past.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

CARSON CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

By A. E. Cook.

[The following excellent history of the schools of Carson City was received too late for insertion in its proper place in the chapter on Education, which had already been printed.]

The settlers of "East Bloomer" held their first school meeting in 1853 and decided to build a school house. As a result a log building was erected where the Miller House now stands. This building was about twelve feet square. It had two half windows of six lights each and split basswood logs set upon pins served for benches. It had a fireplace which was built of stone and mud with a stick chimney on the outside. The first teacher was Almira Miner who, it is said, received one dollar per week for her services and boarded around.

The next school house was a small frame building, just east of where the pumping station now stands. Mrs. Jennings, of Pewamo, was the first teacher and the building was first used in 1855. It was later used as a church by the "Church of God" people. It is now used as a barn on the L. M. Lyon property.

The next school house to be built is the building now used as the G. A. R. hall. It was finished in 1870 and at first the lower floor was occupied by the school and the upper one used as a church. Two teachers were employed; at first both taught in the same room, but as the school grew, the superintendent taught on the second floor while his assistant taught below. Mr. George Cagwin was the first superintendent.

In September, 1883, Eugene D. Straight took charge of the school. By dint of unceasing labor, at the close of five years' labor, Superintendent Straight had the satisfaction of "fathering" the first class to graduate from the Carson City high school. At that time the course of study was not as complete as now, but conscientious work was all that would count. The class of 1888 was only a beginning of the educational work to be accomplished. The county board of examiners granted this class third grade teacher's certificates for one year on their final examination. The "unlucky

thirteen" they were dubbed—but yet in the last days of 1915, the superintendent and all the members of the class are living. Superintendent Straight is the only school commissioner that Montcalm county has ever elected. In 1913 the class celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary and the superintendent and seven of the class were present, letters being read from the others. The present whereabouts of these first ones are as follow: Mrs. Minnie (Evans) McGuire, National City, California; Mrs. Laura (Burk) Gilliland, Harrington, Washington; Mrs. Lizzie (Gardner) Mercer, Rochester, Minnesota; Mrs. Lella (Barney) Walker, Denver, Colorado; Mrs. Lois (Jones) Fasbender, Buffalo, New York; Mrs. Bell (Jackson) Hardman, Alpena, Michigan; Mrs. Minnie (Houston) Gates, Fenwick, Michigan; Mrs. Mamie (Burgerderfer) Kennedy, Battle Creek, Michigan; Elmer Jason, F. A. Wright, and Mrs. Lillian (Dalton) Goolthrite have always clung to their native heath. W. L. Wright came, with his family, a few years ago back to the old home town and says Carson City is good enough for him. Flora D. White, after thirteen years absence, thinks there is no state that looks as good as Michigan and no town where there is more true-blue school feeling than Carson City.

Some of the lower grades were taught by Mrs. L. W. Murray (then Betty Goodno) and Mrs. Jennie Davis (formerly Jennie Sweet), in what is now Mrs. Evey's milinery store. Mrs. L. W. Murray is now a member of the school board, being the first lady to be thus honored.

On account of growth in population and in the school it became necessary to build a new school house. The district was bonded for twelve thousand dollars, which, with the money received from the sale of the old school property, was used to construct a brick school house. The building, which was opened in 1889, contained six school rooms and an office and class room. At first the class room was used as a store room. The superintendent, Mr. Burrell, was assisted by six assistant teachers. School prospered, but because some dropped out and others were not far enough advanced, there were no graduating classes during the years 1889-1890-1891. A. L. Bemis began in September, 1890, and remained until December when he resigned. Mrs. Bemis continued his work until Mr. Dewitt took up the duties of superintendent. There were eleven grades that year. Mr. Hawken began work as janitor the same year and remained eleven years.

In the fall of 1891 A. L. Bemis again returned to take charge of the school, and in the following spring a class of eleven graduated.

Mr. Hetley next became superintendent and remained three years. There were eighteen graduates during the time and all but two are still living.

Mr. Coddington followed Mr. Hetley and remained four years. During this time the library was enlarged and bookcases were placed in the office and upper halls. The laboratory was installed at that time. During his administration, forty-three graduated from the school.

Mr. Lull began his duties as superintendent in 1900 and remained two years. There were seven graduates in each of the classes during this period. He was followed by Mr. Gill who remained but one year. The 1902 graduates were known as the "Naughty Two." Mr. Rundio became janitor at this time and remained one and one-half years.

Mr. Waldron took charge of the school in September of 1902 and remained but one-half year, being followed by Miss Lula Ludwick, who completed the year. There were three graduates known as the "Naughty Three." Electric lights were installed during this year.

Mr. Odle, the next superintendent, remained but one year. Mr. Hawken resumed his duties as janitor and has continued in that capacity until the present time. This makes a period of twenty-two years of service.

A. J. Chappell took charge of the school, remaining six years. He did very much for the upbuilding of the school. The laboratory was remodelled, more bookcases added to the library, the telephone installed and the electric clock secured during his administration. There were forty-five graduates during this period, the class of 1909 being the one which presented the clock to the school. During the summer the old furnaces were removed and a new heating and ventilating system was placed in the building.

F. H. Kinney became superintendent in September, 1912, and remained one year. There were eight graduates.

A. E. Cook became superintendent in 1913 and is the present (1915) superintendent. He is now serving the first year of a three-year contract. There have been two classes graduated, the first containing eleven and the other, the class of 1915, being the largest in the school's history, containing twenty.

During this period the laboratory has been enlarged, another teacher added, a commercial course established, the school placed on the accredited list of the University of Michigan, and a fifteen-thousand-dollar addition constructed. The new addition, now practically completed, is modern in every way. It consists of a high school session room provided with stage and gallery and furnished with the latest type of movable school furniture, a gymnasium forty-two by seventy-two feet, shower baths, double office, commodious classroom, library room, commercial room and special kindergarten toilet. The library consists of about two thousand well selected books.

The board of education consists of live wires who have consistently worked for better things for the school. The members of the board of education are H. J. Garlock, president; Dr. W. E. Adams, secretary; E. D. Lyon, treasurer; Mrs. L. W. Murray and H. G. Heaton, trustees. These, with E. S. Brooke, who retired from the board in the past July, have all been enthusiastic promoters of the new building.

The present faculty consists of C. L. McCallum, who is principal and has charge of the science department; Mabel Patterson, having the English and Latin; Bernice Walker, the history; Ferol Johnson, the commercial; A. E. Cook, the mathematics; Ruth Laurene, Ruth Stiles, Winifred Cowe and Anna Allspaugh the work in the grades. These teachers are all graduates of either Normal schools or colleges and are well qualified in their special lines of teaching.

With the school building provided as it is for community use, a conscientious teaching force, a board of education fully alive to the best things in modern education, and backed up by a community fully as progressive as any in the state the school can look forward to a period of prosperity.

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